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Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Medicine Bow –
Routt National
Forests &
Thunder Basin
National
Grassland

Laramie,
Wyoming

May 2018



Special Uses Report

Medicine Bow LaVA Project

Medicine Bow National Forest

Albany and Carbon Counties, Wyoming

Amber Horne, Realty Specialist

May 14, 2018

**USDA Forest Service, Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District
PO Box 682, Saratoga, WY 82331**

307.326.2532, ahorne@fs.fed.us

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SUMMARY

The effects of proposed vegetation management activities, including prescribed fire, mechanical, and hand treatment methods, are considered for Special Uses authorizations in the Brush Creek/Hayden and Laramie districts. Special Uses connects people to the land by incorporating human activity into public landscape management; it is divided into three parts: recreation, lands and minerals. Recreation includes permitting of commercial and non-commercial recreation events, outfitter-guiding, recreation residences, isolated cabins, and lodges. Lands includes land exchanges and acquisitions, permits for commercial filming, and easements for roads, irrigation ditches, oil and gas pipelines, cell phone towers, and other infrastructure that occupies National Forest lands. Minerals encompasses recreational prospecting such as gold panning, and locatable minerals such as larger-scale mining projects.

The proposed landscape vegetation analysis treatment plan divides the Brush Creek/Hayden and Laramie districts into fourteen separate accounting units; from west to east, they are: Jack Savery, Sandy Battle, Battle Pass, Green Hog, Big Blackhall, Rock Morgan, Bow Kettle, Cedar Brush, North Corner, West French, French Douglas, Pelton Platte, Fox Wood and Owen Sheep. Vegetation management treatments could be applied to 150,000-350,000 acres of National Forest lands with goals that include making areas more resilient to future disturbance; restoring and enhancing forest ecosystem components; supplying forest products to local industries; providing for human safety; reducing wildfire risk to communities, infrastructure, and municipal water supplies; and improving, protecting, and restoring wildlife habitat.

The direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed treatment plan, including the No Action alternative, to Special Uses authorizations would be minimal to none. The most notable effects anticipated to permit, easement and/or lease holders would be temporary road closures and/or smoke cover associated with prescribed burns, which may necessitate postponement of recreation and utility maintenance activities. In many cases, prescribed burns, and mechanical and hand treatments would have a positive effect on Special Uses authorizations by reducing hazards to permitted facilities and recreation activities.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Federal Laws and Regulations

Oil and Gas Pipelines:

Mineral Leasing Act, as Amended February 25, 1920

Permits for Sno-Tel Sites, Power Lines, Irrigation Ditches, Water Pipelines and Water Reservoirs;

Easements for Cell Towers, National Forest Roads:

Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as Amended October 21, 1976

Mining Act

Commercial Filming and Photography Permits:

Act of May 26, 2000, P.L. 106-206 May 26, 2000

Commercial Recreation Permits, Including Outfitter-Guides:

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, 16 U.S.C. 6802(h)

Non-commercial Recreation Permits:

Organic Act of 1897, 16 U.S.C. 551

Irrigation Ditches and Water Pipelines Under the Colorado Ditch Bill:

Section 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976, as amended by P.L.

99-545 (90 Stat. 2743; 43 U.S.C. 1761)

Lodges:

Occupancy Permits, as Amended March 4, 1915

Recreation Residences:

Act of March 4, 1915, 16 U.S.C. 497

State Laws and Regulations

Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 12, Professions and Occupations, Article 55.5: Outfitters and Guides.

Wyoming State Board of Outfitters and Professional Guides.

Forest Service Direction

Forest Service Manual 2700 Special Uses Management

Forest Service Manual 2800 Minerals and Geology

Forest Service Manual 5400 Land Ownership

Forest Service Manual 5500 Land Ownership, Title Management

Forest Service Manual 7500 Water Storage and Transmission

Forest Service Manual 7700 Travel Management

Forest Service Handbook 2709.11 Special Uses

Forest Service Handbook 2709.12 Road Rights-of-Way

Forest Service Handbook 2709.14 Recreation Special Uses

Forest Service Handbook 2709.15 Hydroelectric

Forest Service Handbook 2809.15 Minerals and Geology

Forest Service Handbook 5409.12 Appraisal

Forest Service Handbook 5409.13 Land Acquisition

Forest Service Handbook 5409.17 Rights-of-Way Acquisition

Forest Service Handbook 5509.11 Title Claims, Sales and Grants

Forest Service Handbook 5509.12 Land Status Records System

Forest Service Handbook 7509.11 Dams Management

Forest Service Handbook 7509.55 Transportation Planning

Forest Service Handbook 7709.56 Road Pre-Construction

Forest Service Handbook 7709.56b Transportation Structures

Forest Service Handbook 7709.57 Road Construction

Forest Service Handbook 7709.58 Transportation System Maintenance

Forest Service Handbook 7709.59 Road System Operation and Maintenance

Forest Plan Direction

The effects of the proposed vegetation management activities, including prescribed fire, mechanical, and hand treatment methods, as well as the No Action alternative, are in keeping with forest-wide direction found in *Medicine Bow National Forest Revised Land and Resource Management Plan, December 2003*. Applicable Standards and Guidelines therein include Human Use, Recreation (General, Developed, Dispersed, Outfitters and Guides, Scenery Management, and the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum), Infrastructure (facilities and travelways) and Utility Corridors.

ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

The mapping program ArcMap was used to locate facilities and areas that are either currently permitted or could potentially be permitted by the Brush Creek/Hayden and Laramie districts. Once each location was mapped, the proposed treatment types were overlayed to determine which treatments might have direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to permitted or potentially permitted activities and facilities. Designated Wilderness Area and Inventoried Roadless Area layers were also analysed to note which facilities and activities fell into this category.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Project Design Features

Maps of each of the fourteen accounting units with permitted and potentially permitted Special Uses localities and proposed treatment types are shown in Figures 1 – 15. Results are detailed in Tables 1 – 14.

Standard policies and procedures already utilized by Special Uses would mitigate any potential direct, indirect, and/or cumulative effects to recreation, lands and minerals authorizations. When the Forest Service receives proposal for an authorization, the proposal is scoped among in-house specialists for review, including the fire/fuels and timber specialist(s). These specialists have the opportunity to determine whether the proposed activity would overlap or interfere with treatments, and to make recommendations on how to avoid any conflicts. For example, a proponent may be asked to choose an alternative date and/or place for their proposed activity (i.e. wedding or triathlon). These mitigation measures are adequate for all treatment categories and would be effective for all Special Use authorization categories.

Figure 1: All Accounting Units

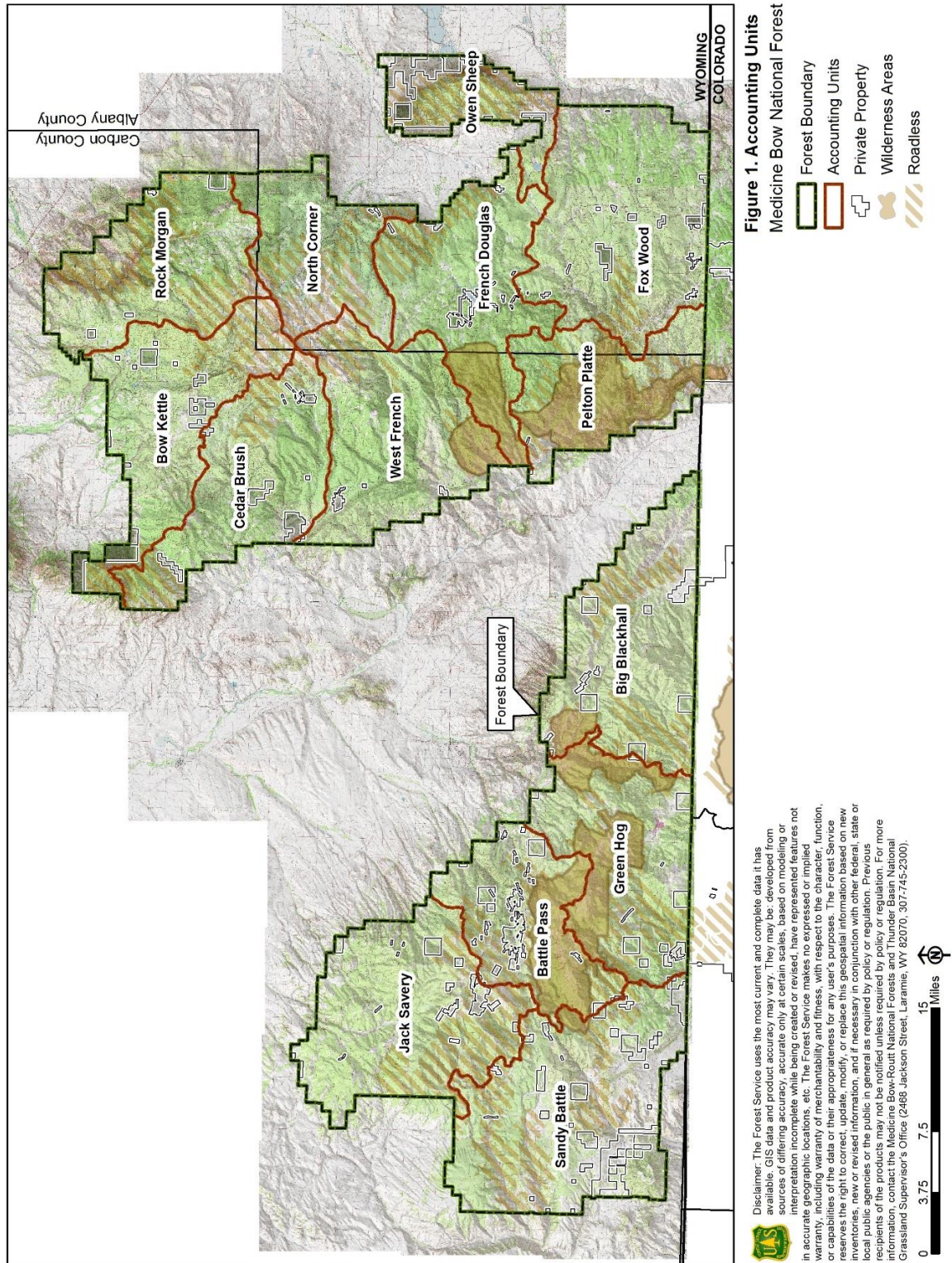


Figure 2: Jack Savery Accounting Unit

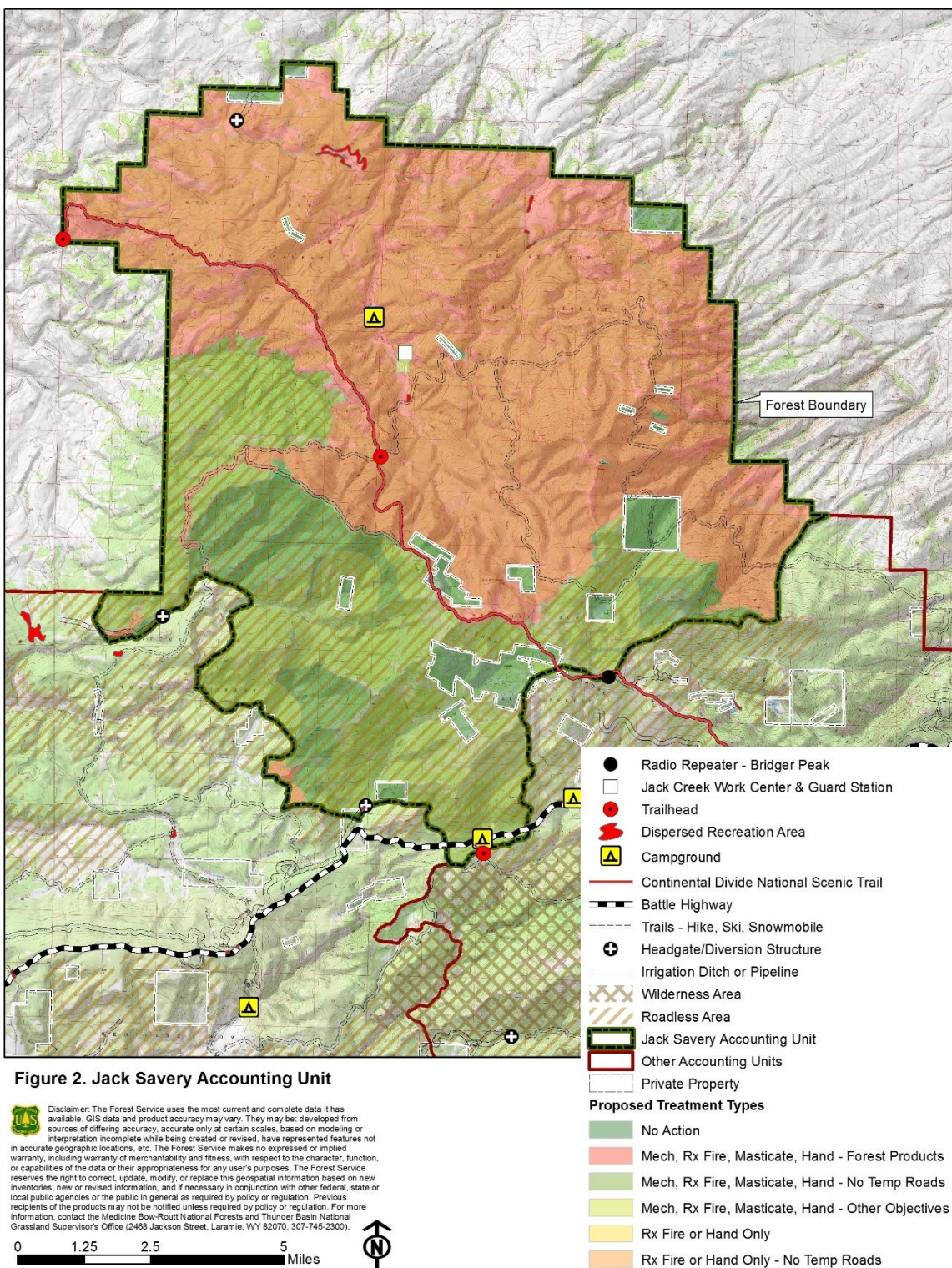


Figure 3: Sandy Battle Accounting Unit

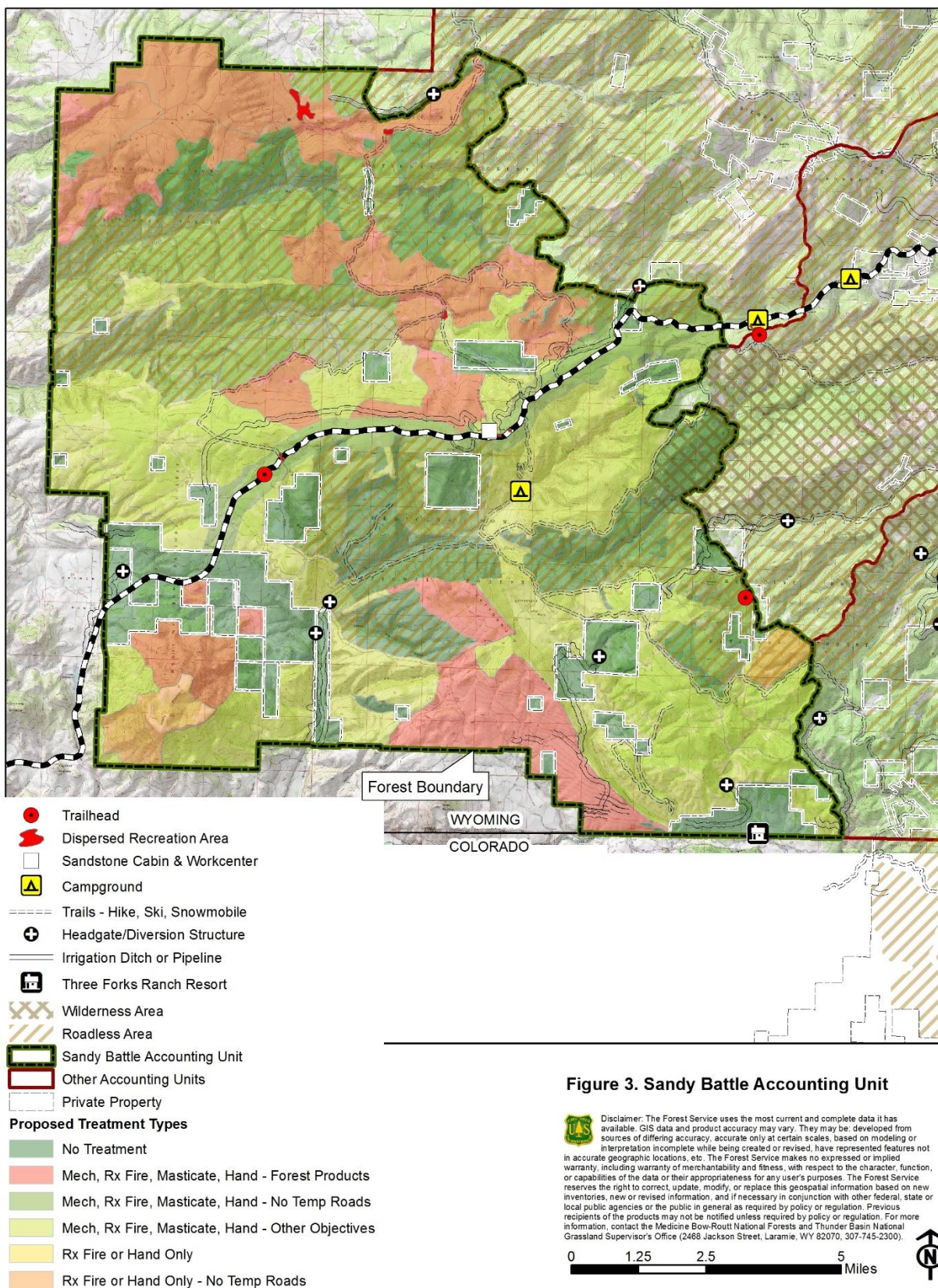


Figure 4: Battle Pass Accounting Unit

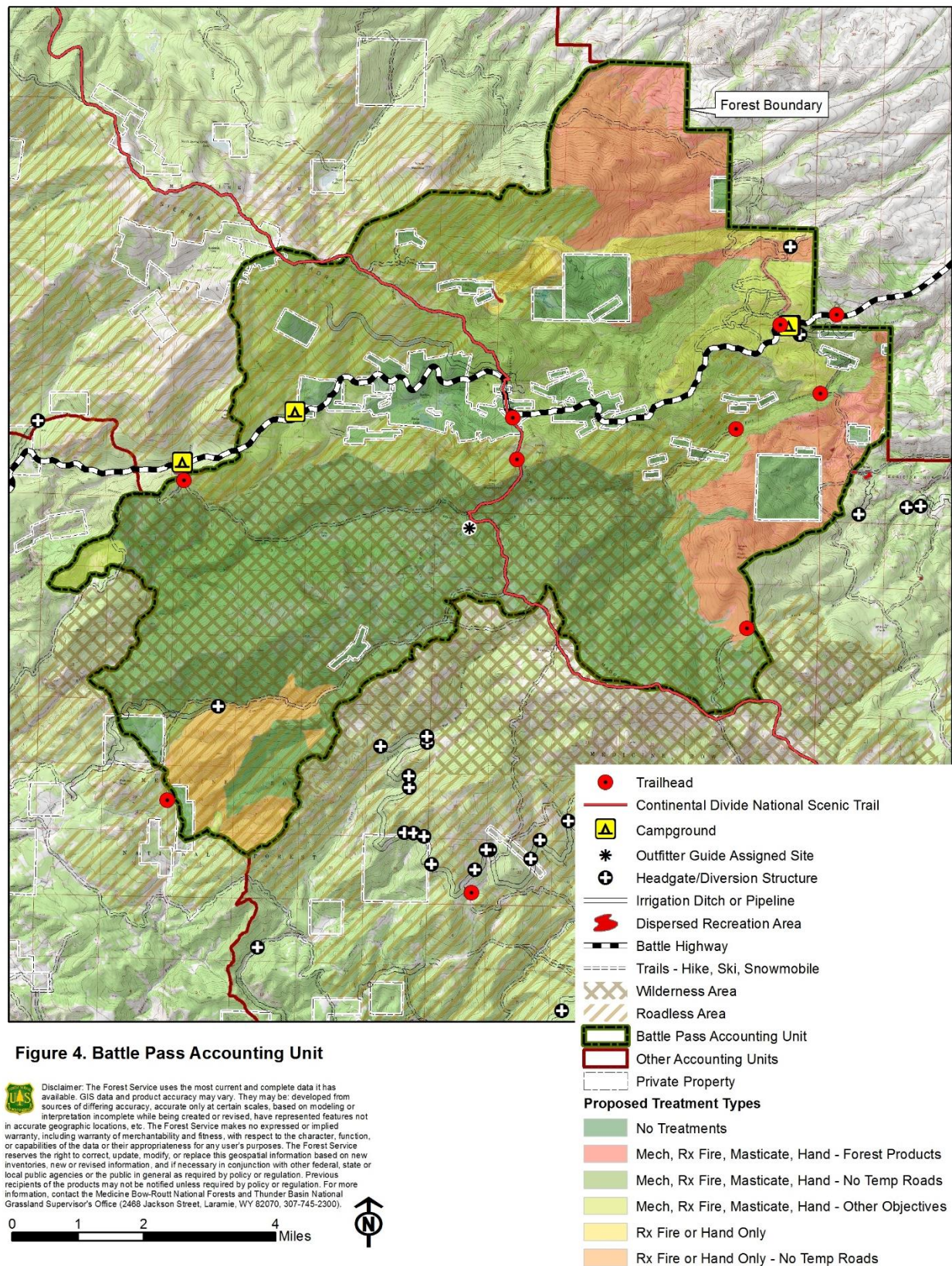


Figure 5: Green Hog Accounting Unit

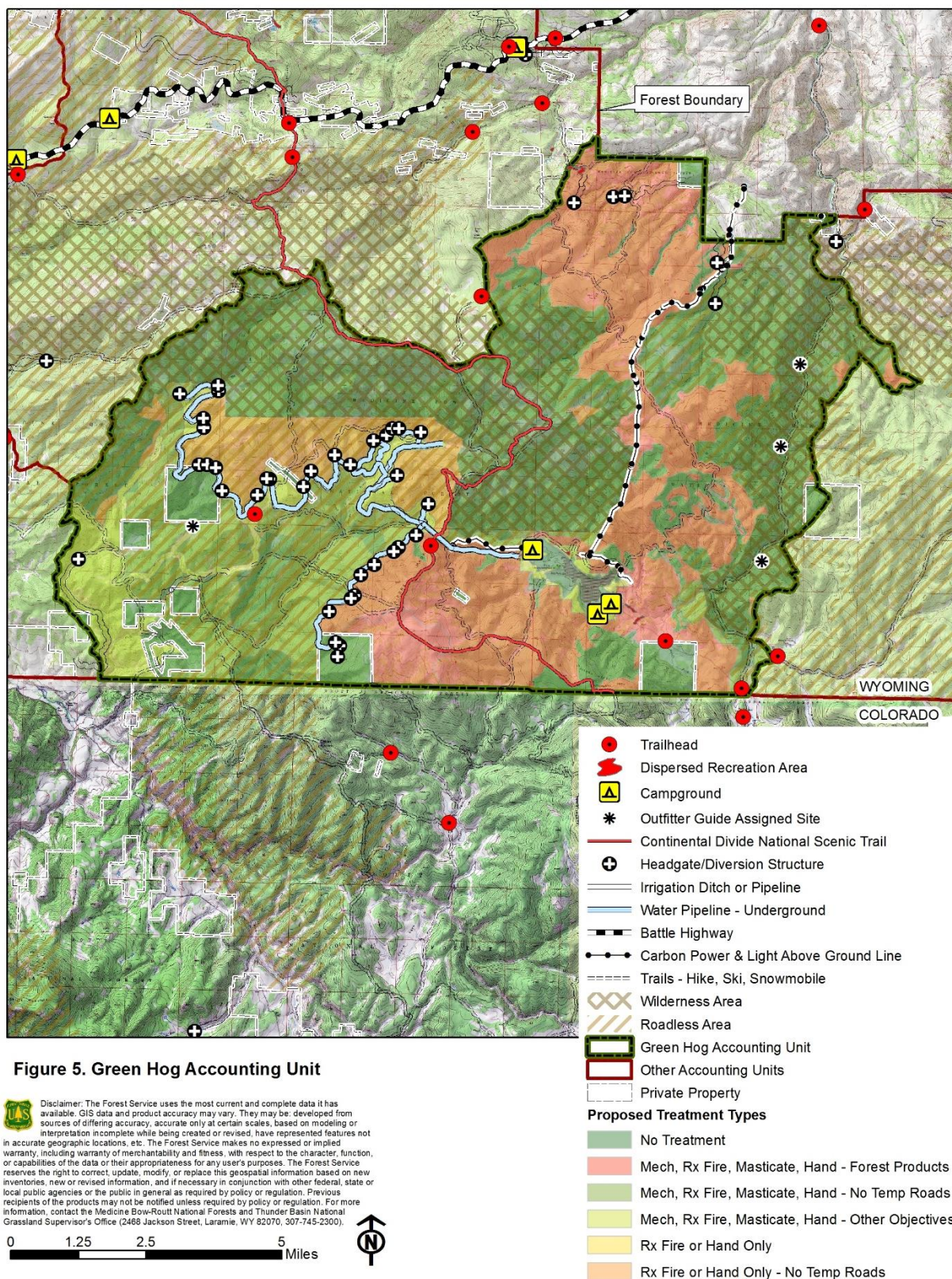


Figure 6: Big Blackhall Accounting Unit

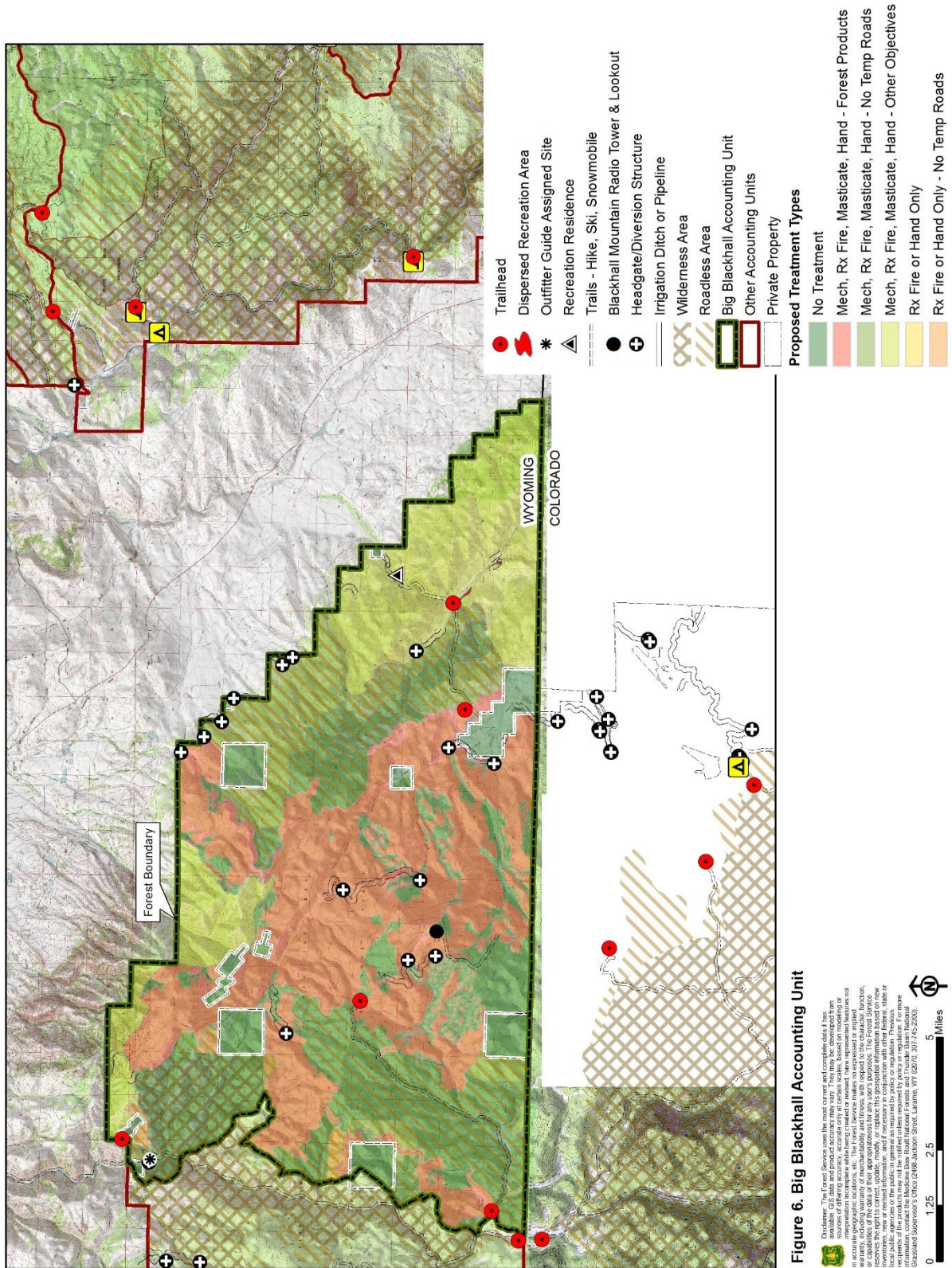


Figure 7: Rock Morgan Accounting Unit

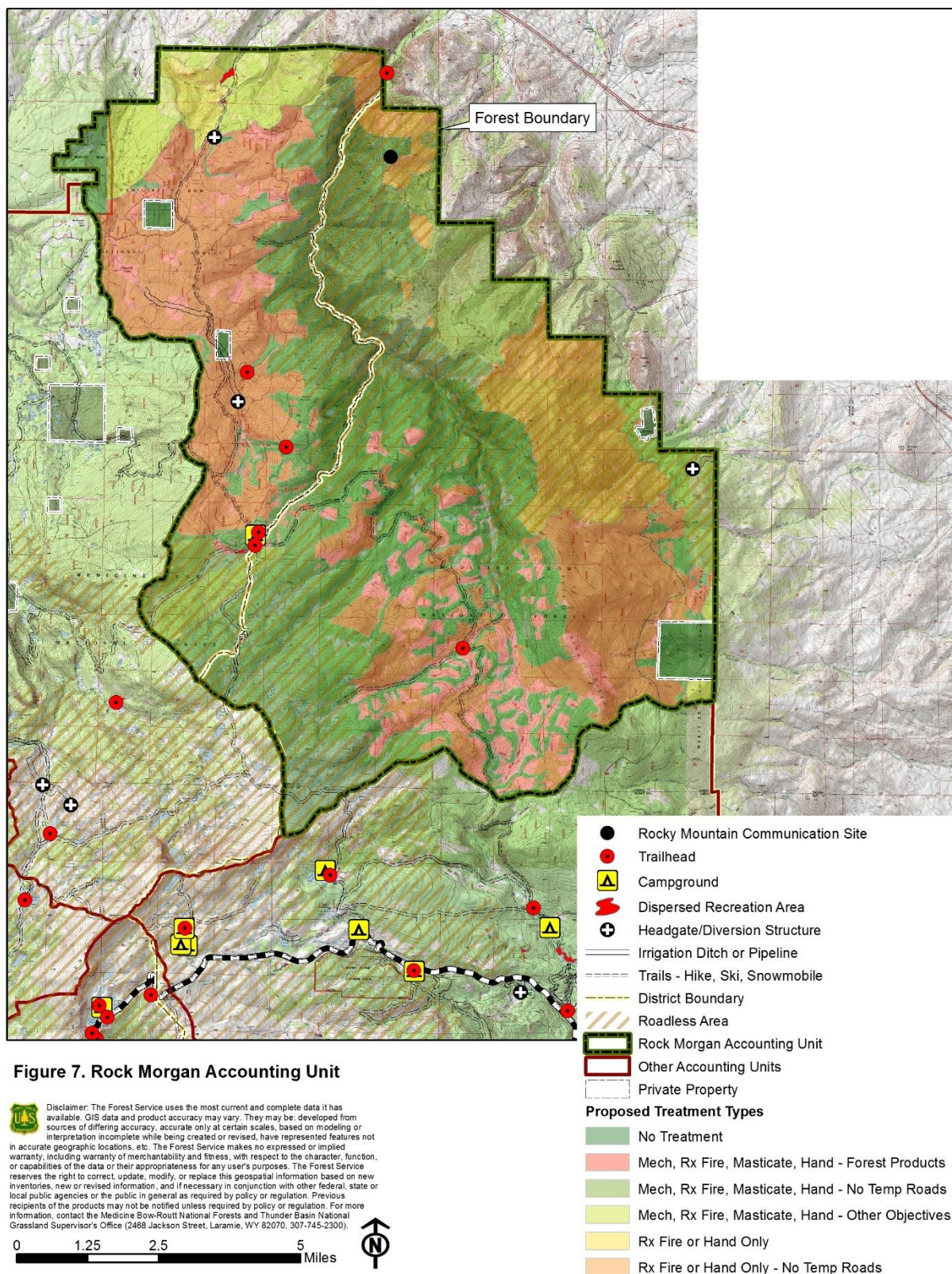


Figure 8: Bow Kettle Accounting Unit

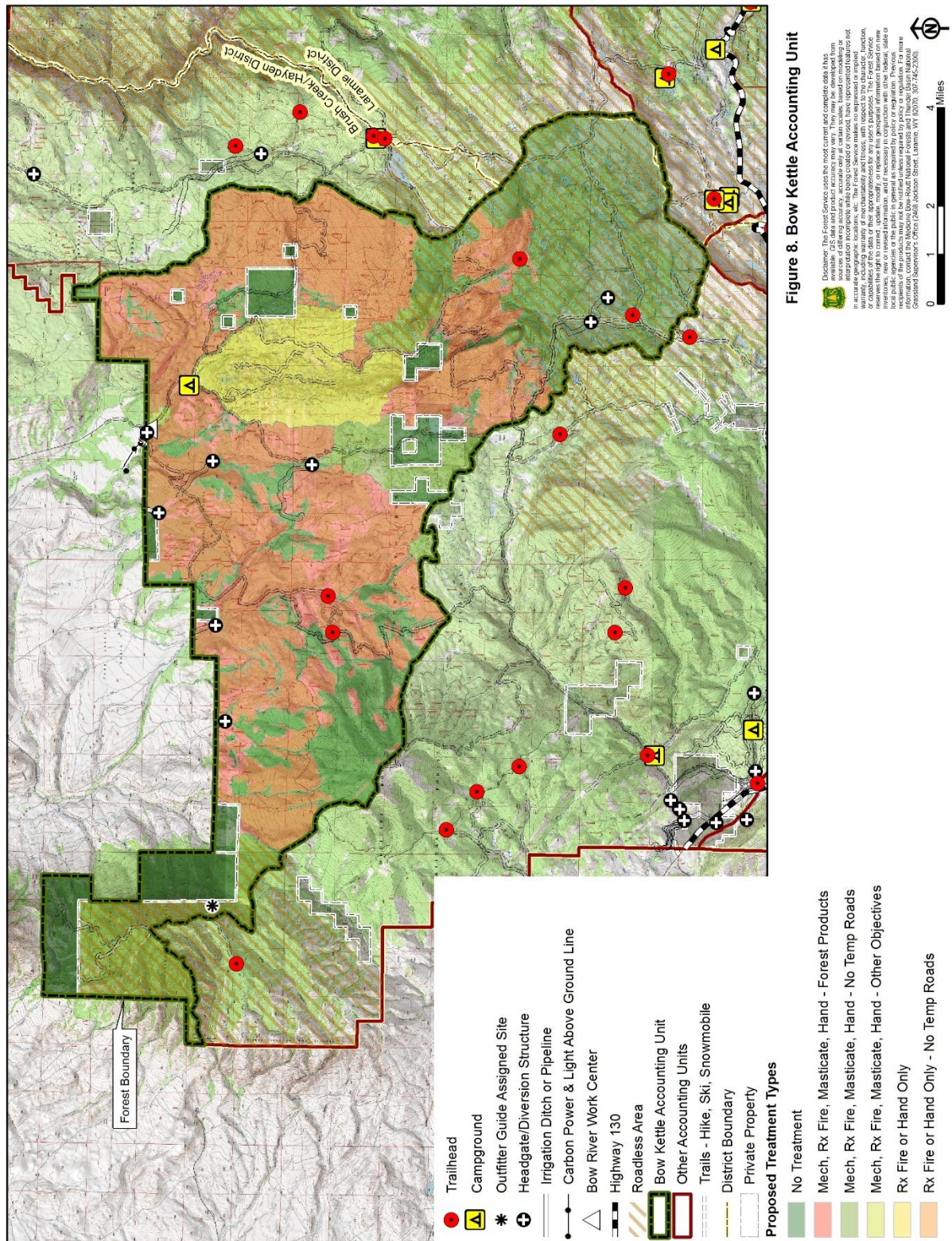


Figure 9: Cedar Brush Accounting Unit

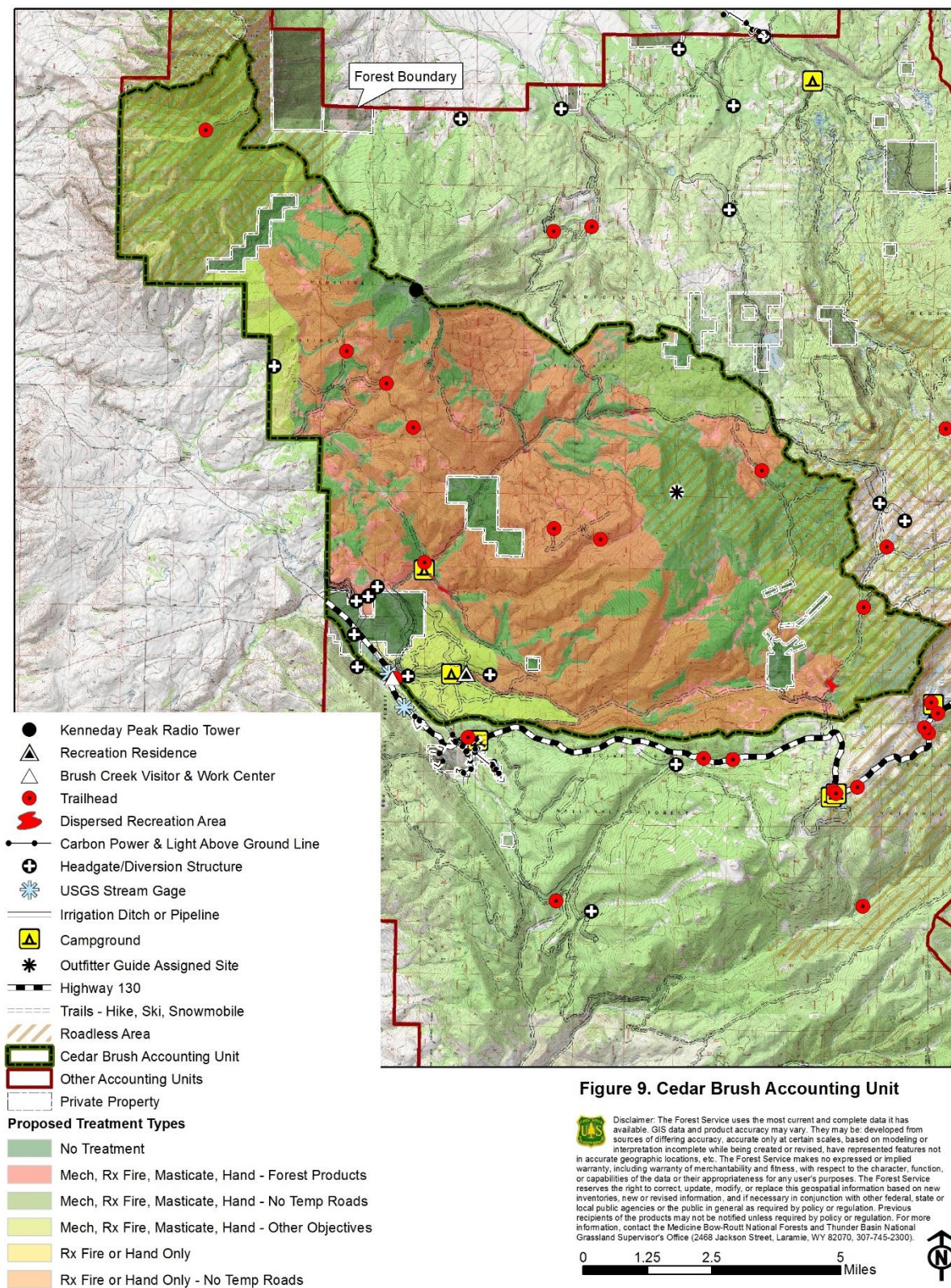


Figure 10: North Corner Accounting Unit

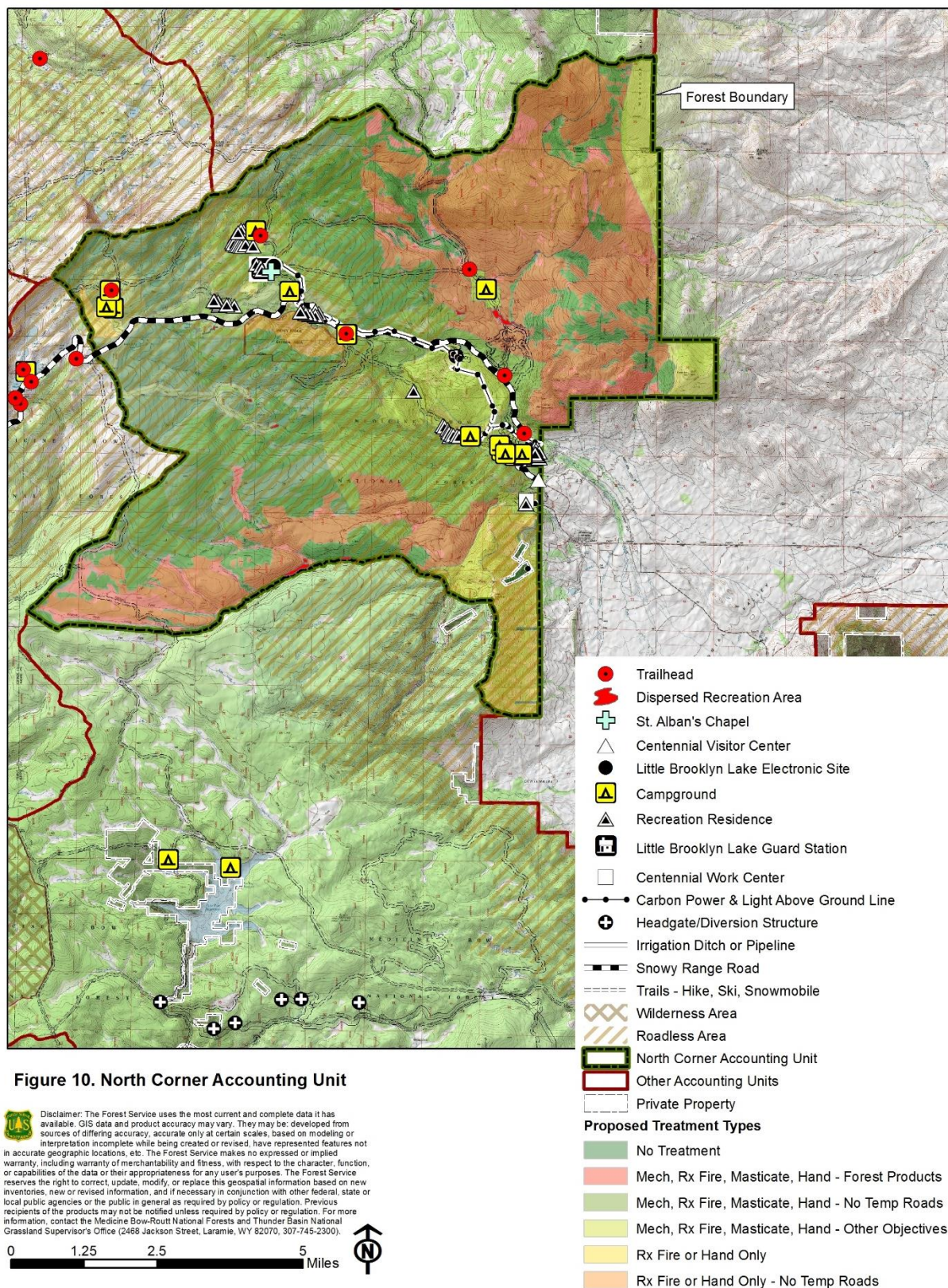


Figure 11: West French Accounting Unit

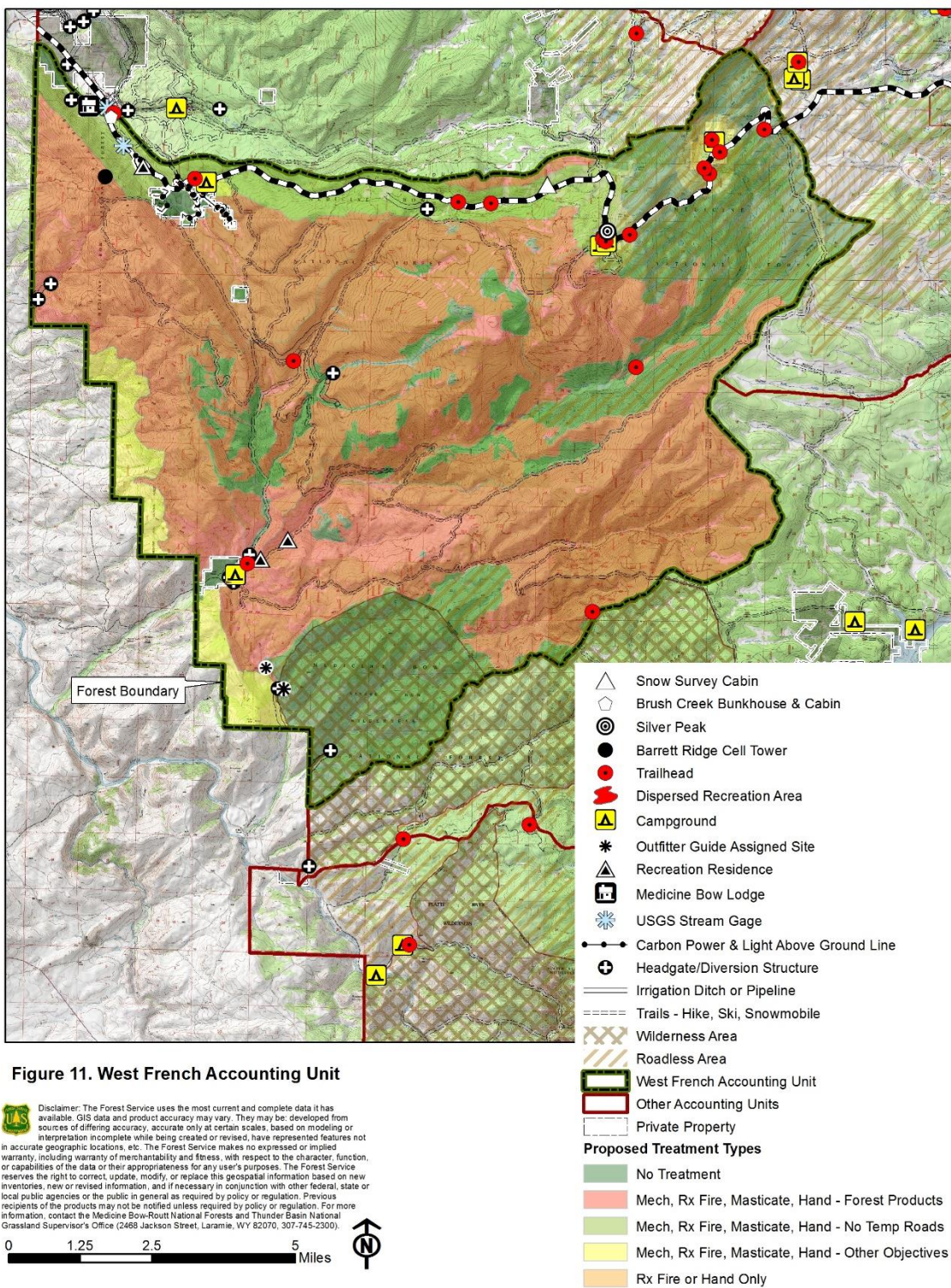


Figure 12: French Douglas Accounting Unit

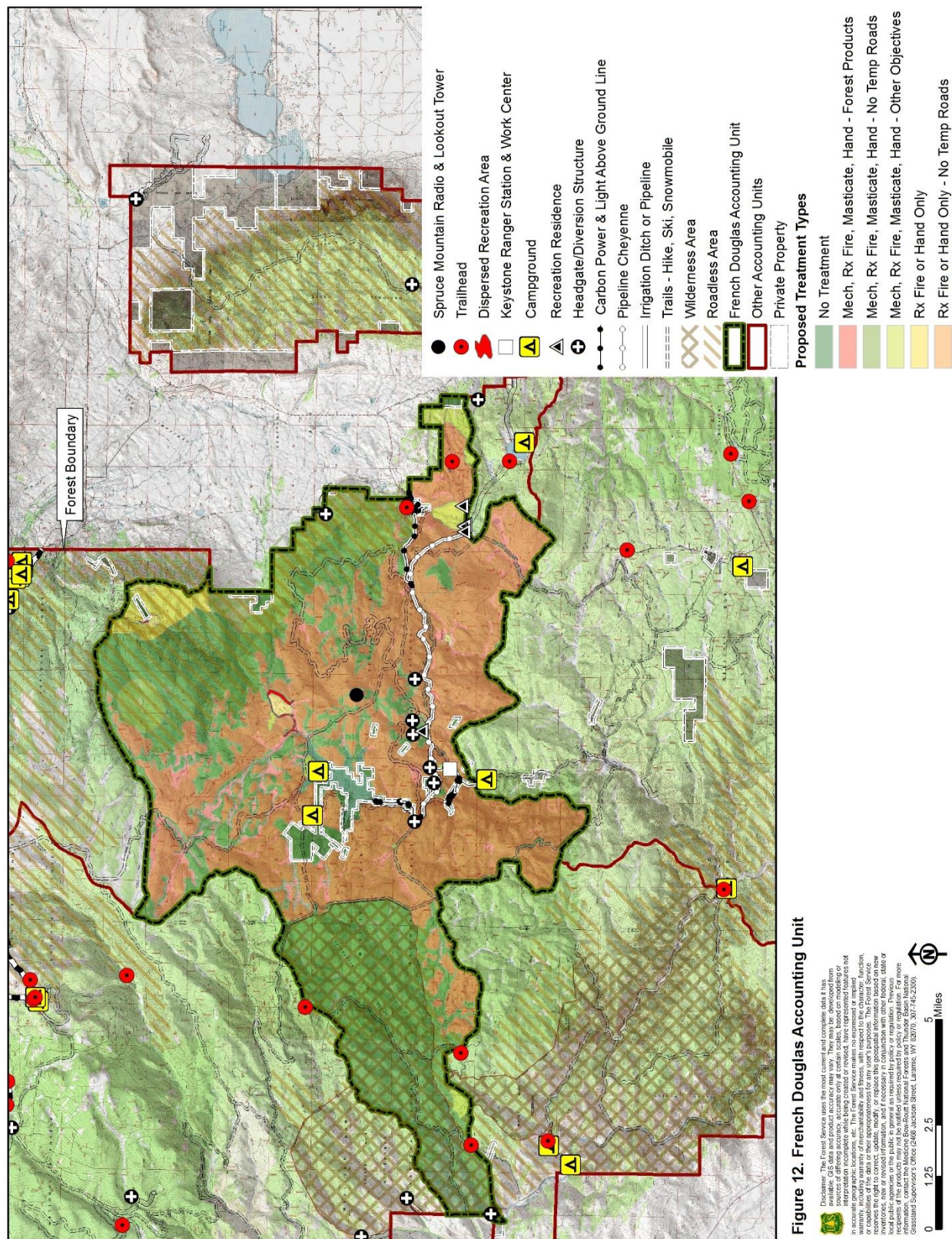


Figure 13: Pelton Platte Accounting Unit

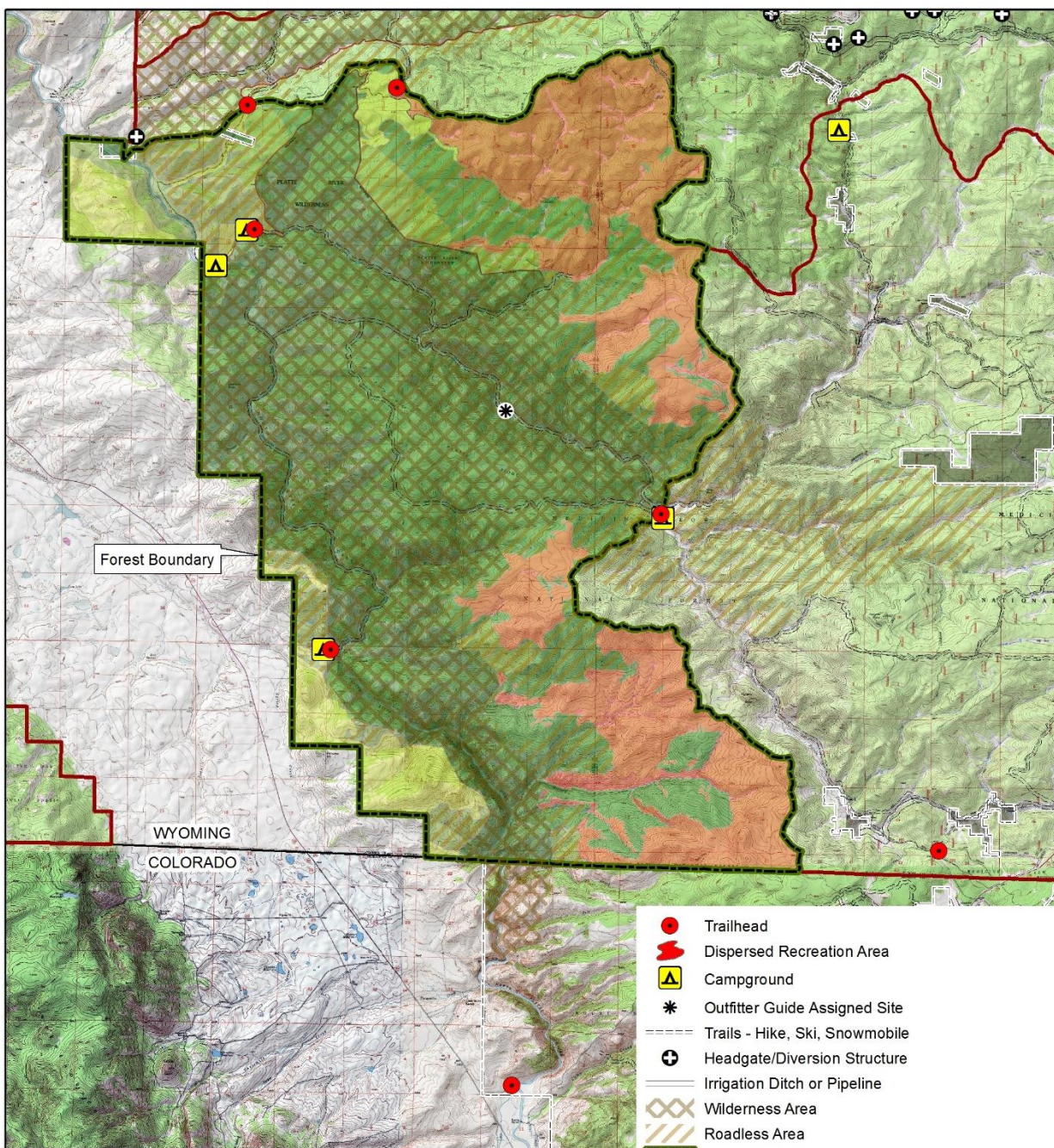


Figure 13. Pelton Platte Accounting Unit



Disclaimer: The Forest Service uses the most current and complete data it has available. GIS data and product accuracy may vary. They may be developed from sources of differing accuracy, accurate only at certain scales, based on modeling or interpretation incomplete while being created or revised, have represented features not in accurate geographic locations, etc. The Forest Service makes no expressed or implied warranty, including warranty of merchantability and fitness, with respect to the character, function, or capabilities of the data or their appropriateness for any user's purposes. The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace this geospatial information based on new inventories, new or revised information, and if necessary in conjunction with other federal, state or local public agencies or the public in general as required by policy or regulation. Previous recipients of the products may not be notified unless required by policy or regulation. For more information, contact the Medicine Bow-Rout National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland Supervisor's Office (2468 Jackson Street, Laramie, WY 82070, 307-745-2300).



Figure 14: Fox Wood Accounting Unit

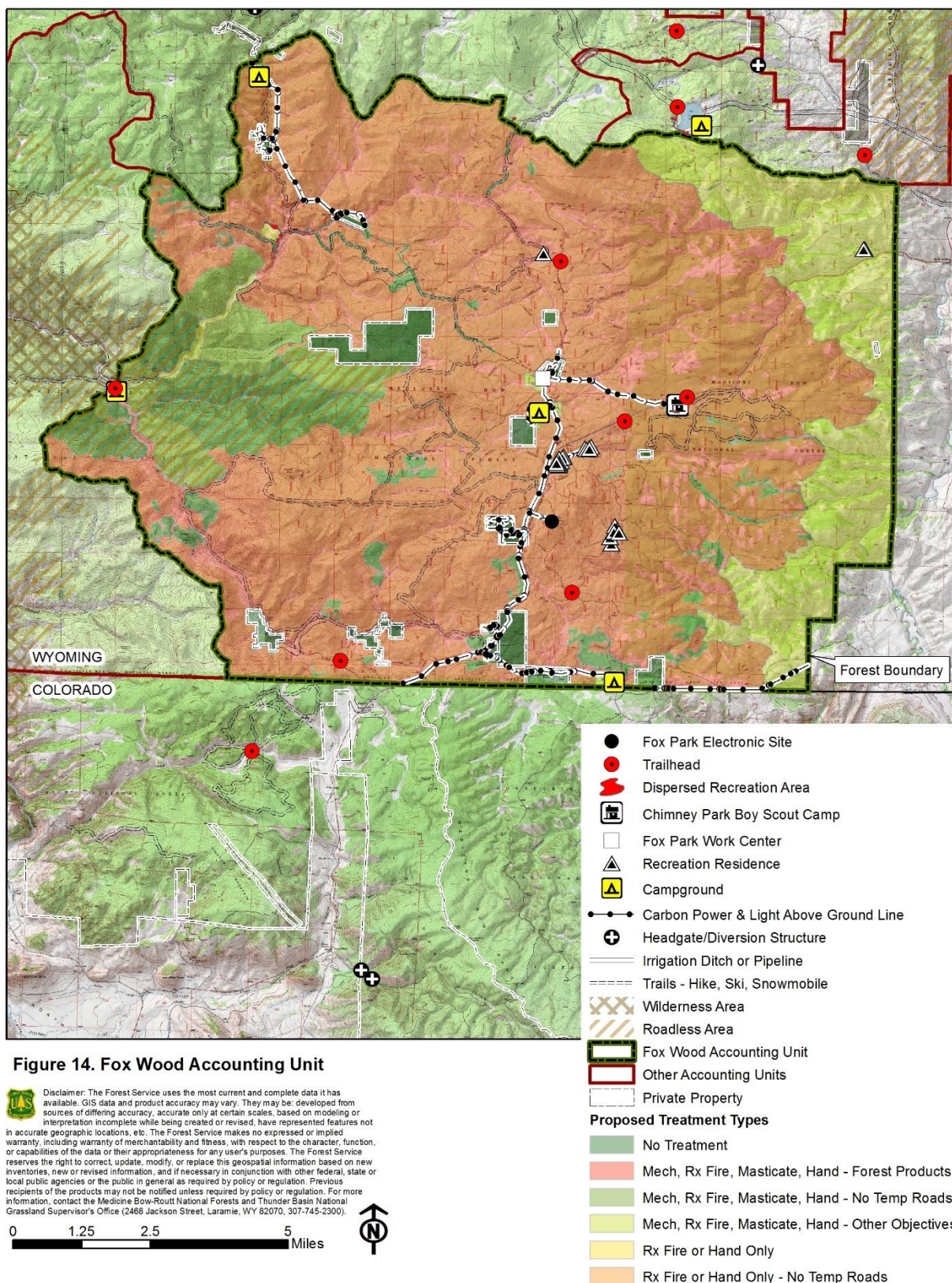


Figure 15: Owen Sheep Accounting Unit

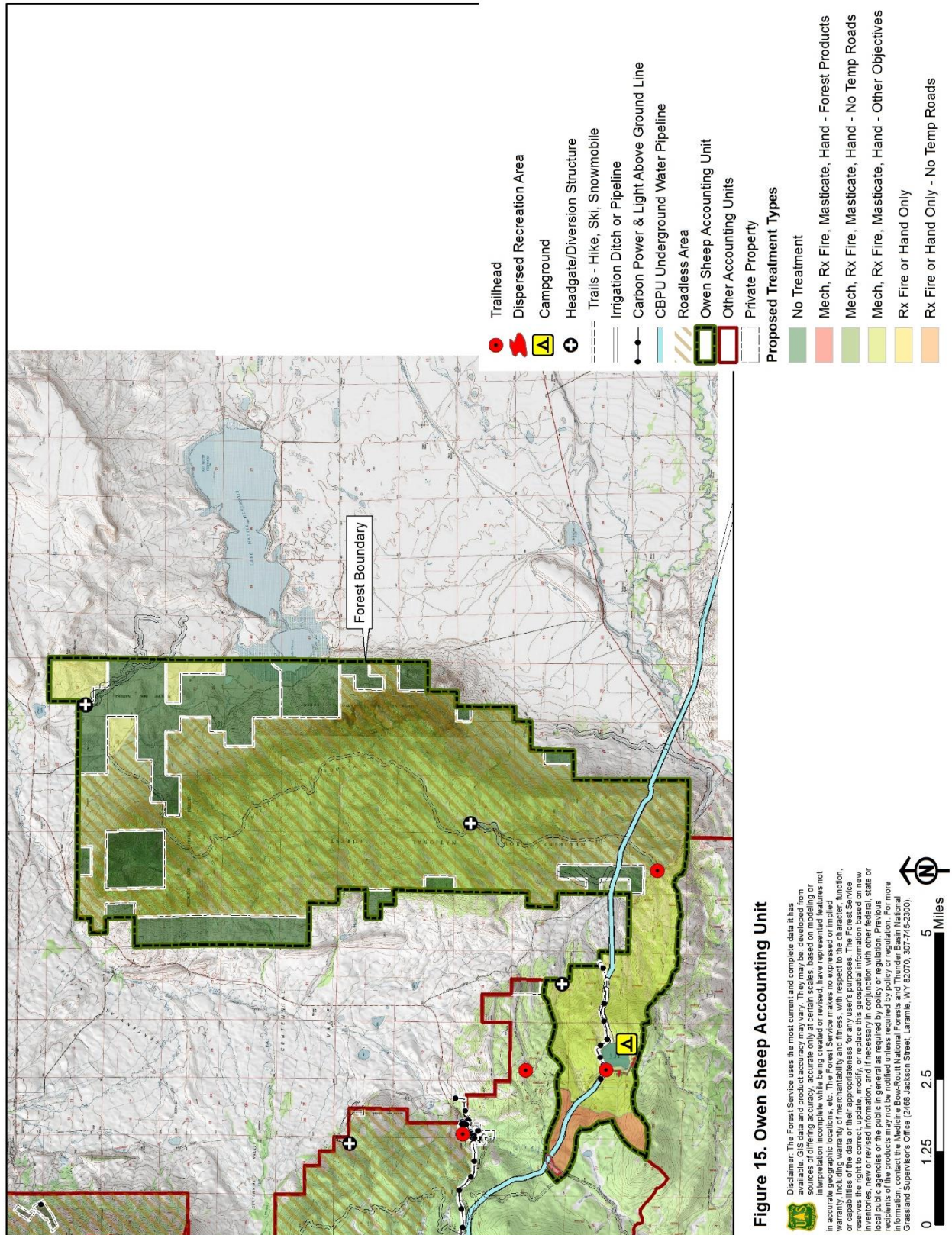


Table 1: Jack Savery Accounting Unit

Use Type	Permitted or Potentially Permitted Locations	Comments	Roadless Areas Included?	Proposed Treatment Types					
				Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – No Temp Roads	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Forest Products	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Other Objectives	Rx Fire or Hand Only – No Temp Roads	Rx Fire or Hand Only	No Treatment
Dispersed Rec Areas	6	423,311.5 total acres	No	X	X				
Trailheads	2	Includes trailheads for CDNST	No		X				
Trails	Numerous	70.5 total miles Includes CDNST	Yes	X	X				X
Cabins & Resorts	1	Jack Creek Guard Station and Crew Quarters	No		X				
Recreation Facilities	2	Jack Creek Campground	Yes		X	X			
Outfitter Guide Assigned Campsites	0								
Utility Sites	1	Bridger Peak Radio Repeater	Yes	X					
Headgates/Diversions	3		Yes	X	X				X
Irrigation Ditches and Pipelines	4	2.5 total miles All earthen ditches	Yes	X	X				X

Table 2: Sandy Battle Accounting Unit

Use Type	Permitted or Potentially Permitted Locations	Comments	Roadless Areas Included?	Proposed Treatment					
				Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – No Temp Roads	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Forest Products	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Other Objectives	Rx Fire or Hand Only – No Temp Roads	Rx Fire or Hand Only	No Treatment
Dispersed Rec Areas	5	347,005 total acres	No	X	X	X			
Trailheads	2		Yes	X					
Trails	Numerous	74.5 total miles	Yes	X	X	X			X
Cabins & Resorts	2	Three Forks Ranch Resort (pvt) Sandstone Cabin and Work Ctr	No						X
Recreation Facilities	1	Battle Creek Campground (closed)	No			X			
Outfitter Guide Assigned Campsites	0								
Utility Sites	0								
Headgates/Diversions	5		Yes			X			X
Irrigation Ditches	7	34 total miles All earthen ditches	Yes	X	X	X			X

Table 3: Battle Pass Accounting Unit

Use Type	Permitted or Potentially Permitted Locations	Comments	Roadless Areas Included?	Proposed Treatment Types					
				Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – No Temp Roads	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Forest Products	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Other Objectives	Rx Fire or Hand Only – No Temp Roads	Rx Fire or Hand Only	No Treatment
Dispersed Rec Areas	4	39,969 total acres	No	X	X			X	
Trailheads	7	Includes 2 for CDNST	Yes	X					
Trails	Numerous	69 total miles Includes CDNST	Yes	X	X		X		X
Cabins & Resorts	None								
Recreation Facilities	2	Bottle Creek Campground Haskins Creek Campground (closed)	Yes			X			X
Outfitter Guide Assigned Campsites	1	Located in Wilderness	No						X
Utility Sites	0								
Headgates/Diversions	4		Yes	X	X		X		X
Irrigation Ditches and Pipelines	6	8 miles of earthen ditch 0.07 miles of pipeline	Yes	X	X			X	X

Table 4: Green Hog Accounting Unit

Use Type	Permitted or Potentially Permitted Locations	Comments	Roadless Areas Included?	Proposed Treatment Types			Rx Fire or Hand Only – No Temp Roads	Rx Fire or Hand Only	No Treatment
				Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – No Temp Roads	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Forest Products	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Other Objectives			
Dispersed Rec Areas	3	92,882 total acres	No		X	X			X
Trailheads	4	Includes 1 for CDNST	No	X	X	X			
Trails	Numerous	90.5 total miles	Yes	X	X	X	X		X
Cabins & Resorts	0								
Recreation Facilities	3	Hog Park Campground Hog Park Picnic Area Lakeview Campground	No			X			
Outfitter Guide Assigned Sites	4	3 are located in Wilderness				X			X
Utility Sites	0								
Headgates/Diversions	4		Yes		X	X	X		X
Irrigation Ditches and Pipelines	Numerous	9 miles of earthen ditch 25 miles of pipeline (Little Snake Division Complex)	Yes		X	X	X		X

Table 5: Big Blackhall Accounting Unit

Use Type	Permitted or Potentially Permitted Locations	Comments	Roadless Areas Included?	Proposed Treatment Types					
				Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – No Temp Roads	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Forest Products	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Other Objectives	Rx Fire or Hand Only – No Temp Roads	Rx Fire or Hand Only	No Treatment
Dispersed Rec Areas	4	85,248 total acres	No		X	X			
Trailheads	5		No		X	X			
Trails	4	17 total miles	Yes	X	X	X			X
Cabins & Resorts	1	Recreation Residence	No			X			
Recreation Facilities	1	Blackhall Mountain Lookout Tower				X			
Outfitter Guide Assigned Campsites	1	Located in Wilderness	No						X
Utility Sites	1	Blackhall Mountain Radio Repeater	No			X			
Headgates/Diversions	14		Yes		X	X	X		X
Irrigation Ditches and Pipelines	20	15.5 total miles All earthen ditch	Yes		X	X			X

Table 6: Rock Morgan Accounting Unit

Use Type	Permitted or Potentially Permitted Locations	Comments	Roadless Areas Included?	Proposed Treatment Types					
				Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – No Temp Roads	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Forest Products	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Other Objectives	Rx Fire or Hand Only – No Temp Roads	Rx Fire or Hand Only	No Treatment
Dispersed Rec Areas	4	103,487.5 total acres	No		X	X	X	X	X
Trailheads	5		No		X		X		X
Trails	Numerous	48.5 total miles	Yes	X	X	X			X
Cabins & Resorts	0								
Recreation Facilities	1	Deep Creek Campground	Yes			X			
Outfitter Guide Assigned Sites	0								
Utility Site	1	Rock Mountain Communication Site	Yes				X		X
Headgate/Diversion	3		Yes		X	X			X
Irrigation Ditches and Pipelines	4	3.82 total miles All earthen ditch	Yes		X	X			X

Table 7: Bow Kettle Accounting Unit

Use Type	Permitted or Potentially Permitted Locations	Comments	Roadless Areas Included?	Proposed Treatment Types					
				Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – No Temp Roads	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Forest Products	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Other Objectives	Rx Fire or Hand Only – No Temp Roads	Rx Fire or Hand Only	No Treatment
Dispersed Rec Areas	2	57,212 total acres	No		X				
Trailheads	4	4	Yes	X	X				X
Trails	Numerous	86.5 total miles	Yes	X	X			X	X
Cabins & Resorts	1	Bow River Work Center	No			X			
Recreation Facilities	1	Bow River Campground	No			X			
Outfitter Guide Assigned Sites	1		Yes	X					
Utility Sites	0								
Headgates/Diversions	8			X	X				X
Irrigation Ditches and Pipelines	11	6.5 miles of earthen ditch 2 miles of pipeline		X	X				X

Table 8: Cedar Brush Accounting Unit

Use Type	Permitted or Potentially Permitted Locations	Comments	Roadless Areas Included?	Proposed Treatment Types					
				Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – No Temp Roads	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Forest Products	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Other Objectives	Rx Fire or Hand Only – No Temp Roads	Rx Fire or Hand Only	No Treatment
Dispersed Rec Areas	9	238,415 total acres	Yes	X	X	X			X
Trailheads	10		Yes						
Trails	Numerous	92.5 total miles	Yes	X	X	X			X
Cabins & Resorts		1 Recreation Residence	No		X				
Recreation Facilities	3	Brush Creek Visitor Center and Work Center Lincoln Park and South Brush Creek Campgrounds	No			X			X
Outfitter Guide Assigned Sites	1	Located in Wilderness	Yes						X
Utility Sites	2	Kenneday Peak Radio Repeater CP&L above-ground Power Line 0.2 miles	No			X			X
Headgates/Diversions	7		No	X	X	X			
Irrigation Ditches and Pipelines	Appx. 14	22,295 total miles All earthen ditch 1 Stream Gage	Yes	X	X	X			X

Table 9: North Corner Accounting Unit

Use Type	Permitted or Potentially Permitted Locations	Comments	Roadless Areas Included?	Proposed Treatment Types					
				Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – No Temp Roads	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Forest Products	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Other Objectives	Rx Fire or Hand Only – No Temp Roads	Rx Fire or Hand Only	No Treatment
Dispersed Rec Area	11	234,076 total acres	No	X	X				X
Trailheads	6		Yes	X	X	X			
Trails	Numerous	52.5 total miles	Yes	X	X	X		X	X
Cabins & Resorts	71	70 Recreation Residences Little Brooklyn Lake Guard St.	No	X		X			
Recreation Facilities	15	Centennial Visitor & Work Ctr. Brooklyn Lake, Lewis Lake, Sugar Loaf, Libby Loaf, Nash Fork, Green Rock, North Fork, Barber Lake, Willow, Pine, Fir, Aspen, and North Corner Campgrounds/Picnic Areas St. Alban's Chapel	No	X		X			
Outfitter Guide Assigned Sites	0								
Utility Sites	2	Little Brooklyn Lake Elec. Site Carbon Power & Light above ground Line – 13,722 miles	No	X		X			
Headgates/Diversions	2		No			X			
Irrigation Ditches and Pipelines	Numerous	2 miles of earthen ditch 0.75 miles of pipeline		X	X	X			

Table 10: West French Accounting Unit

Use Type	Permitted or Potentially Permitted Locations	Comments	Roadless Areas Included?	Proposed Treatment Types					
				Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – No Temp Roads	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Forest Products	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Other Objectives	Rx Fire or Hand Only – No Temp Roads	Rx Fire or Hand Only	No Treatment
Dispersed Rec Areas	6	49,076 total acres	No		X	X			X
Trailheads	15		Yes	X	X	X			X
Trails	Numerous	87 total miles	Yes	X	X	X			X
Cabins & Resorts	7	3 Recreation Residences Medicine Bow Lodge Snow Survey Cabin	No	X	X				
Recreation Facilities	5	Ryan Park, French Creek, Silver Lake, & Mirror Lake Campgrounds and Mirror Lake Picnic Area	No	X		X			
Outfitter Guide Assigned Sites	2	1 located in Wilderness	No		X				X
Utility Sites	3	Silver Peak communication site (closed) Barrett Ridge Cell Tower CP&L Power Line above ground (4 miles total)	No	X	X				
Headgates/Diversions	6		No	X	X	X			X
Irrigation Ditches and Pipelines	17	8.5 miles of earthen ditches 0.2 miles of pipeline + spring- box and storage tanks 1 Stream Gage	Yes	X	X	X			X

Table 11: French Douglas Accounting Unit

Use Type	Permitted or Potentially Permitted Locations	Comments	Roadless Areas Included?	Proposed Treatment Types					
				Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – No Temp Roads	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Forest Products	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Other Objectives	Rx Fire or Hand Only – No Temp Roads	Rx Fire or Hand Only	No Treatment
Dispersed Rec Areas	9	334,696 total acres	No		X			X	
Trailheads	3		Yes	X	X	X			
Trails	Numerous	96.5 total miles	Yes		X	X			X
Cabins & Resorts	5	5 Recreation Residences	No		X				X
Recreation Facilities	3	Keystone Ranger Station and Work Center Spruce Mountain Fire and Lookout Tower Rob Roy Campground Holmes Campground (closed)	No			X			X
Outfitter Guide Assigned Sites	0								
Utility Sites		7 miles of CP&L above ground power line	No		X				X
Headgates/Diversions	8		Yes	X	X				X
Irrigation Ditches and Pipelines	Numerous	1 mile of earthen ditch 11.5 miles of pipeline – mix of above- & below-ground 8.5 miles CBPU underground water pipeline	Yes	X	X				X

Table 12: Pelton Platte Accounting Unit

Use Type	Permitted or Potentially Permitted Locations	Comments	Roadless Areas Included?	Proposed Treatment Types					
				Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – No Temp Roads	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Forest Products	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Other Objectives	Rx Fire or Hand Only – No Temp Roads	Rx Fire or Hand Only	No Treatment
Dispersed Rec Areas	3	4,743 total acres	No	X	X				
Trailheads	4		Yes			X			X
Trails	8	30 total miles	Yes	X	X	X			X
Cabins & Resorts	0								
Recreation Facilities	4	Pelton Creek, Pickaroon, Six-Mile Gap, and Pike Pole Campgrounds (includes river access)	No			X			
Outfitter Guide Assigned Sites	1	Located in Wilderness	No						X
Utility Sites	0								
Headgates/Diversions	0								
Irrigation Ditches and Pipelines	0								

Table 13: Fox Wood Accounting Unit

Use Type	Permitted or Potentially Permitted Locations	Comments	Roadless Areas Included?	Proposed Treatment Types					
				Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – No Temp Roads	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Forest Products	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Other Objectives	Rx Fire or Hand Only – No Temp Roads	Rx Fire or Hand Only	No Treatment
Dispersed Rec Areas	20	138,409.5 total acres	No		X	X		X	X
Trailheads	5		No		X				
Trails	Numerous	62 miles total	Yes	X	X				X
Cabins & Resorts	26	26 Recreation Residences	No		X	X			
Recreation Facilities	7	Chimney Park Boy Scout Camp Boswell Creek Campground (closed) Pelton Creek, Bobbie Thompson, Evans Creek & Miller Lake Campgrounds Fox Park Work Center	No		X	X			
Outfitter Guide Assigned Sites	0								
Utility Sites	Numerous	CP&L Above Ground Line 28 miles total	No		X	X			X
Headgates/Diversions	0								
Irrigation Ditches and Pipelines	3	3 earthen ditches 2 miles total	No		X	X			

Table 14: Owen Sheep Accounting Unit

Use Type	Permitted or Potentially Permitted Locations	Comments	Roadless Areas Included?	Proposed Treatment Types					
				Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – No Temp Roads	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Forest Products	Mechanical, Rx Fire, Masticate, Hand – Other Objectives	Rx Fire or Hand Only – No Temp Roads	Rx Fire or Hand Only	No Treatment
Dispersed Rec Areas	4	107,625 total acres	No		X	X			
Trailheads	2		No			X			
Trails	1	13 total miles	Yes	X		X			X
Cabins & Resorts	0								
Recreation Facilities	1	Lake Owen Campground	No			X			
Outfitter Guide Assigned Sites	0								
Utility Sites	1	CP&L above ground wire – 2 miles total	No			X			
Headgates/Diversions	4		Yes			X			X
Irrigation Ditches and Pipelines	6	6 miles of pipeline 6 miles of earthen ditch 5.5 miles of Cheyenne underground pipeline	Yes	X	X	X			X

Existing Conditions

Jack Savery Accounting Unit

The Jack Savery Accounting Unit (Jack Savery) contains locations for permitted and potentially permitted dispersed and developed recreation activities, outfitter-guiding, cabins and lodges, utility facilities such as irrigation ditches and headgates, and photography and filming (Figure 2, Table 1). The Forest Service often receives requests for temporary recreation permits, both commercial and non-commercial, for the types of localities observed in the Jack Savery unit. Types of recreation permits might be large weddings (non-commercial) or duathlons for fund-raising purposes (commercial). Permits for these types of events typically take place in dispersed recreation areas (the Jack Savery unit contains the largest collective coverage of dispersed recreation areas at over 423,000 total acres) or at developed recreation areas, of which Jack Savery has a variety. There are also two trailheads, including one for the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST), and a total of 70.5 miles of trail, including a segment of the CDNST, in this unit. A portion of the trail system within this unit runs through the Huston Park Wilderness Area. Jack Savery also contains the Jack Creek Campground and the Jack Creek Guard Station and Crew Quarters, the latter of which has been the site for permitted family activities such as weddings and reunions. Campgrounds can be permitted for temporary recreation activities, as well. Several permitted outfitter-guides operate in the Jack Savery unit, including backpacking and camping trips along the CDNST and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear. While there are numerous outfitter-guide assigned campsites throughout the Medicine Bow National Forest, there are none in this unit.

Permitted utilities are the Bridger Peak Radio Repeater, 2.5 total miles of earthen irrigation ditches, and three associated headgate/diversion structures. Battle Highway, which clips the southern portion of the unit, is a popular destination for commercial photography and filming permittees, typically promotional in nature and occurring in the summer and fall months. All recent recreational prospecting permits have been issued for the Medicine Bow units, so there has not been any recent permitted mineral activity in the Jack Savery unit. Jack Savery contains areas of Inventoried Roadless Areas, in which some of the above facilities and activities occur. There are no Wilderness Areas in this unit.

Sandy Battle Accounting Unit

The Sandy Battle Accounting Unit (Sandy Battle) contains locations for permitted and potentially permitted dispersed and developed recreation activities, outfitter-guiding, cabins and lodges, utility facilities such as irrigation ditches and headgates, and photography and filming (Figure 3, Table 2). The Forest Service often receives requests for temporary recreation permits, both commercial and non-commercial, for localities observed in the Sandy Battle unit. Types of recreation permits might be large weddings (non-commercial) or duathlons for fund-raising purposes (commercial). Permits for these types of events typically take place in dispersed recreation areas (the Sandy Battle unit contains a very large amount of dispersed recreation areas at just over 347,000 total acres) or at developed recreation areas, of which Sandy Battle has a variety. There are two trailheads, numerous branching trails totaling 74.5 miles, and the Sandstone Cabin and Work Center, for which the Forest Service has issued permits for recreation and/or family events such as weddings and reunions. While campgrounds can be

permitted for temporary recreation activities, as well, the only developed campground, Battle Creek Campground, is permanently closed. Several permitted outfitter-guides operate in the Sandy Battle unit, mostly hunters leading their clients in search of big game such as moose and bear. While there are numerous outfitter-guide assigned campsites throughout the Medicine Bow National Forest, there are none in this unit. Sandy Battle also contains the private resort at Three Forks Ranch is also located in Sandy Battle at the southern edge of the unit.

While there are seven permitted earthen ditches in the Sandy Battle unit, totaling 34 miles, there are no permitted headgate/diversion structures within the boundaries of the unit. Battle Highway, which generally bisects Sandy Battle, is a popular destination for commercial photography and filming permits that are typically promotional in nature and occurring in the summer and fall months. All recently issued recreational prospecting permits have been for locations in the Medicine Bow units, so there has not been any recent permitted minerals-related activity in the Sandy Battle unit. Sandy Battle contains areas of Inventoried Roadless Areas, in which some of the above facilities and activities occur. There are no Wilderness Areas in this unit.

Battle Pass Accounting Unit

The Battle Pass Accounting Unit (Battle Pass) contains locations for permitted and potentially permitted dispersed and developed recreation activities, outfitter-guiding, cabins and lodges, utility facilities such as irrigation ditches and headgates, and photography and filming (Figure 4, Table 3). The Forest Service often receives requests for temporary recreation permits, both commercial and non-commercial, for localities observed in the Battle Pass unit. Types of recreation permits might be large weddings (non-commercial) or duathlons for fund-raising purposes (commercial). Permits for these types of events typically take place at dispersed recreation localities (the Battle Pass unit contains only 40,000 total acres of dispersed recreation area, which is far less than that of neighboring Sandy Battle and Jack Savery units) or in developed recreation localities, such as hiking trails. Battle Pass contains seven trailheads, two of which are for the CDNST, a complex of trails totaling 69 miles including a segment of the CDNST, and two developed campgrounds: Haskins Creek Campground, which is permanently closed, and Battle Creek Campground, which remains open. A portion of the trail system within this unit runs through the Huston Park Wilderness Area. Several permitted outfitter-guides operate in the Battle Pass unit, including backpackers and campers who operate along the CDNST and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear. There is one permitted outfitter-guide campsite located in the Huston Park Wilderness near the CDNST.

Permitted utilities in this unit are minimal; they are four headgate/diversion structures, 8 total miles of earthen ditches, and one small pipeline (0.07 miles in length). Battle Highway, which generally bisects the unit, is a popular destination for commercial photography and filming permits, which are typically promotional in nature and occurring in the summer and fall months. All recently issued recreational prospecting permits have been for locations in the Medicine Bow units, so there has not been any recent permitted minerals-related activity in the Battle Pass unit. Battle Pass contains areas of Inventoried Roadless Areas and Wilderness Area, in which some of the above facilities and activities occur.

Green Hog Accounting Unit

The Green Hog Accounting Unit (Green Hog) contains locations for permitted and potentially permitted dispersed and developed recreation activities, outfitter-guiding, campgrounds, utility facilities such as irrigation ditches and headgates, and photography and filming (Figure 5, Table 4). The Forest Service often receives requests for temporary recreation permits, both commercial and non-commercial, for the types of localities observed in the Green Hog unit. Types of recreation permits might be large weddings (non-commercial) or duathlons for fund-raising purposes (commercial). Permits for these types of events can take place in dispersed recreation areas (Green Hog contains 92,882 total acres) or at developed recreation areas, of which Green Hog has a variety. There are four trailheads, including one for the CDNST, and 90 miles of trail, including a segment of the CDNST, a portion of which runs through the Huston Park Wilderness Area. Green Hog also has two developed campgrounds, Hog Park and Lakeview, as well as one developed Picnic Area, Hog Park; each of these have been, and have the potential to be, the site for commercial and non-commercial permitted activities. Several permitted outfitter-guides operate in the Green Hog unit, including backpackers and campers along the CDNST and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear. There are four permitted outfitter-guide assigned campsites in this unit; three are located in the Encampment Wilderness and one is located in Inventoried Roadless Area.

There is a highly developed permitted irrigation complex in Green Hog, including four headgate/diversion structures, nine collective miles of earthen ditchline, and 25 miles of below-ground pipeline permitted for the Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities (Little Snake Division Complex). Battle Highway runs to the north of the Green Hog unit, so photography and filming permits are not likely to be requested for this unit; in fact, none have been recently issued for any localities in this unit. All recent recreational prospecting permits have been issued for the Medicine Bow units, so there has not been any recently permitted mineral activity in the Green Hog unit. Green Hog contains areas of Inventoried Roadless Areas and Wilderness Area, in which some of the above facilities and activities occur.

Big Blackhall Accounting Unit

The Big Blackhall Accounting Unit (Big Blackhall) contains locations for permitted and potentially permitted dispersed and developed recreation activities, outfitter-guiding, cabins and lodges, utility facilities such as irrigation ditches and headgates, and photography and filming (Figure 6, Table 5). The Forest Service often receives requests for temporary recreation permits, both commercial and non-commercial, for the types of localities observed in the Big Blackhall unit. Types of recreation permits might be large weddings (non-commercial) or duathlons for fund-raising purposes (commercial). Permits for these types of events can take place in dispersed recreation areas (of which the Big Blackhall unit contains collective 85,000 acres) or developed (such as Big Blackhall's five trailheads and 17 miles of trail). The unit contains no developed campgrounds or picnic areas. However, there is one permitted recreation residence cabin, and also the Blackhall Mountain Lookout Tower, the latter of which is a popular attraction for recreationists and photographers. Several permitted outfitter-guides operate in the Big Blackhall unit, mainly hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear. The single permitted outfitter-guide assigned campsite in this unit is located outside the Wilderness.

Permitted utilities in Big Blackhall are the radio repeater located on the Blackhall Mountain Lookout Tower and a total of 15.5 miles of earthen ditches with fourteen associated headgate/diversion structures. Battle Highway runs to the north of the Green Hog unit, so photography and filming permits are not likely to be requested for this unit; in fact, none have been recently issued for any localities the unit. All recently-issued recreational prospecting permits have been for locations in the Medicine Bow units, so there has not been any recent permitted minerals-related activity in the Big Blackhall unit. Big Blackhall contains areas of Inventoried Roadless Areas and Wilderness Area, in which some of the above facilities and activities occur.

Rock Morgan Accounting Unit

The Rock Morgan Accounting Unit (Rock Morgan) is divided into the Brush Creek/Hayden district (western portion) and the Laramie district (eastern portion). This unit contains locations for permitted and potentially permitted dispersed and developed recreation activities, outfitter-guiding, a campground, utility facilities such as irrigation ditches and headgates, and photography and filming (Figure 7, Table 6). The Forest Service often receives requests for temporary recreation permits, both commercial and non-commercial, for the types of localities observed in the Rock Morgan unit. Types of recreation permits might be large weddings (non-commercial) or duathlons for fund-raising purposes (commercial). Permits for these types of events typically take place in dispersed recreation areas (the Rock Morgan has four separate locations of dispersed recreation areas, totaling over 103,000 acres) or developed recreation areas (there are five trailheads and a total of 48.5 miles of trails in this unit). Several permitted outfitter-guides operate in the Rock Morgan unit, including backpacking and camping trips along the Arlington Trail and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear. While there are numerous permitted outfitter-guide assigned campsites throughout the Medicine Bow National Forest, there are none in this unit. There are also no permitted cabins, lodges or resorts located in Rock Morgan.

Permitted utilities in Rock Morgan are relatively minimal compared to other units; they are the Rock Morgan communication site and a total of four miles of earthen ditches with three headgate/diversion structures. Snowy Range Highway, which is a popular destination for commercial photography and filming permittees, runs to the south of the Rock Morgan unit so photography and filming permits are not likely to be requested for this unit; in fact, none have been recently issued for any localities in or near the unit. All recently-issued recreational prospecting permits have been issued for the vicinity of Brush Creek and North Brush Creek Road (NFSR 100), so there has not been any recent permitted mineral activity in the Rock Morgan unit. Big Blackhall contains areas of Inventoried Roadless Area, in which some of the above facilities and activities occur; there are no Wilderness areas in this unit.

Bow Kettle Accounting Unit

The Bow Kettle Accounting Unit (Bow Kettle) contains locations for permitted and potentially permitted dispersed and developed recreation activities, outfitter-guiding, cabins and lodges, a campground, and utility facilities such as irrigation ditches and headgates (Figure 8, Table 7). The Forest Service often receives requests for temporary recreation permits, both commercial and non-commercial, for the types

of localities observed in the Bow Kettle unit. Types of recreation permits might be large weddings (non-commercial) or duathlons for fund-raising purposes (commercial). These types of permitted events typically take place in dispersed recreation areas (the Bow Kettle has two separate dispersed recreation areas, totaling just over 57,000 acres) or at developed areas. There are also four trailheads, 86.5 miles of trail including the popular Arlington Trail, and the Bow River Work Center and Cabin, the latter of which is situated in a large meadow, rendering it potentially perfect for permitted family activities such as weddings and reunions. Bow Kettle contains one campground, Bow River, which can be permitted for temporary recreation activities, as well. Several permitted outfitter-guides operate in the Bow Kettle unit, including backpackers and campers along the Arlington Trail and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear. There is one permitted outfitter-guide assigned campsite in this unit.

Like its neighbor the Rock Morgan unit, Bow Kettle has a relatively limited number of permitted utilities; they are eight headgate/diversion structures, 6.5 total miles of earthen ditches, and 2 miles of pipeline. Snowy Range Highway, which is a popular destination for commercial photography and filming permittees, runs to the south of the Bow Kettle unit so photography and filming permits are not likely to be requested for this unit; in fact, none have been recently issued for any localities in the unit. All recently permitted recreational prospecting activities have taken place in the vicinity of Brush Creek and North Brush Creek Road (NFSR 100), so there has not been any recent permitted mineral activity in the Bow Kettle unit. Bow Kettle contains areas of Inventoried Roadless Area, in which some of the above facilities and activities occur; there are no Wilderness areas in this unit.

Cedar Brush Accounting Unit

The Cedar Brush Accounting Unit (Cedar Brush) contains locations for permitted and potentially permitted dispersed and developed recreation activities, outfitter-guiding, cabins and lodges, utility facilities such as irrigation ditches and headgates, and photography and filming (Figure 9, Table 8). The Forest Service often receives requests for temporary recreation permits, both commercial and non-commercial, for the types of localities observed in the Cedar Brush unit. Types of recreation permits might be large weddings (non-commercial) or duathlons for fund-raising purposes (commercial). Permits for these types of events typically take place in dispersed recreation areas (Cedar Brush contains a relatively large coverage of dispersed recreation area at a total of 238,415 acres) or in developed areas, of which Cedar Brush has a variety. The unit has 10 trailheads, 92.5 miles of trail, and the Brush Creek Visitors Center and Work Center complex, which includes a campground for campground hosts, a bunkhouse, a cabin, and a newly-constructed pavilion. The Forest Service receives several requests for temporary recreation permits to utilize the pavilion for family events, such as weddings. Two developed campgrounds, Lincoln Park and South Brush Creek, occur in Cedar Brush; these two areas and the immediate vicinity are especially popular among recreational prospectors. There is also one privately-owned recreation residence in Cedar Brush. Several permitted outfitter-guides operate in the unit, including backpacking and camping trips around the Medicine Bow Peak trail complex and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear. There is one permitted outfitter-guide assigned campsite in this unit located in the Savage Run Wilderness.

Permitted utility sites for this unit are Kenneday Peak Radio Repeater, a very short above-ground power line for CP&L, seven headgate/diversion structures, over 22,000 miles of earthen ditches, and one stream gage (one of two stream gages on the Medicine Bow National Forest). Snowy Range Highway, which clips the south-eastern corner of the unit, is a popular destination for commercial photography and filming permittees, typically promotional in nature and occurring in the summer and fall months. The Forest Service has issued numerous permits to recreational mineral prospectors for use in the vicinity of Lincoln Park and South Brush Creek campgrounds; these prospectors also like to operate along South Brush Creek and its tributaries along North Brush Creek Road (NFSR 100). Cedar Brush contains Inventoried Roadless Areas, in which some of the above facilities and activities occur; there are no Wilderness areas in this unit.

North Corner Accounting Unit

The North Corner Accounting Unit (North Corner) contains locations for permitted and potentially permitted dispersed and developed recreation activities, outfitter-guiding, cabins and lodges, utility facilities such as irrigation ditches and headgates, and photography and filming (Figure 10, Table 9). The Forest Service often receives requests for temporary recreation permits, both commercial and non-commercial, for the types of localities observed in the North Corner unit. Types of recreation permits might be large weddings (non-commercial) or duathlons for fund-raising purposes (commercial). Permits for these types of events can take place in dispersed recreation areas (North Corner contains a relatively large area of dispersed recreation area, with 11 separate areas totaling 234,076 acres) or in developed recreation areas such as the thirteen campgrounds and/or picnic areas in this unit. There are also six trailheads, 52.5 miles of trails, the Little Brooklyn Lake Guard Station, and the Centennial Visitor and Work Center. St. Alban's Chapel, a small outdoor worship facility, is situated in the northeast quarter of the unit; it receives multiple requests for wedding events annually. North Corner contains the largest number of recreation residences at 71. Numerous permitted outfitter-guides lead their clients throughout the unit in search of big game such as moose and bear. While there are numerous outfitter-guide assigned campsites throughout the Medicine Bow National Forest, there are none in this unit.

Permitted facilities in North Corner are 13,722 miles of above-ground electric line, two headgate/diversion structures, two miles of earthen ditches, and 0.75 miles of below-ground water pipeline. Snowy Range Highway, which generally bisects the unit, is a popular destination for commercial photography and filming permits, which are typically promotional in nature and occur in the summer and fall months. All recently issued recreational prospecting permits have been issued for the vicinity of Brush Creek and North Brush Creek Road (NFSR 100), so there has not been any recent permitted minerals-related activity in the North Corner unit. This unit contains Inventoried Roadless Areas, in which some of the above facilities and activities occur; there are no Wilderness areas in this unit.

West French Accounting Unit

The West French Accounting Unit (West French) contains locations for permitted and potentially permitted dispersed and developed recreation activities, outfitter-guiding, cabins and lodges, utility

facilities such as irrigation ditches and headgates, and photography and filming (Figure 11, Table 10). The Forest Service often receives requests for temporary recreation permits, both commercial and non-commercial, for the types of localities observed in the West French unit. Types of recreation permits might be large weddings (non-commercial) or duathlons for fund-raising purposes (commercial). Permits for these types of events can take place in dispersed recreation areas (West French contains six separate dispersed recreation areas, creating a relatively small coverage area of 49,076 total acres) or in developed recreation areas, of which West French has a variety. The unit has 15 trailheads and a total of 87 miles of trails, including the popular trail complex around Medicine Bow Peak, the historic Snow Survey Cabin, four campgrounds, such as Ryan Park and French Creek, and one picnic area (Mirror Lake). Facilities also include the Medicine Bow Lodge, which is a historic resort with privately-owned buildings situated on National Forest land. Developed recreation facilities also include The Lake Marie area is largely situated within West French; in addition to heavy traffic from general recreationists, the area is a popular locality for numerous activities that require permits, such as weddings and commercial filming (often using drones). There are also three privately-owned recreation residences. Several permitted outfitter-guides operate in the West French unit, including backpackers and campers around the Medicine Bow Peak trail complex and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear. There are two permitted outfitter-guide assigned campsites in this unit, one of which is located in the Savage Run Wilderness.

Permitted utility sites in the West French unit are relatively numerous; they are the Silver Peak communication site, which is dismantled and no longer under permit, the cell tower on Barrett Ridge, and four miles of above-ground power line permitted for CP&L. Irrigation facilities are six headgate/diversion structures, .02 miles of above-ground pipeline with springbox and storage tanks, and one stream gage (one of two stream gages on the Medicine Bow National Forest). Snowy Range Highway, which runs along the northern edge of the unit, is a popular destination for commercial photography and filming permits, which are typically promotional in nature and occur in the summer and fall months. All recently issued recreational prospecting permits are located in the vicinity of Brush Creek and North Brush Creek Road (NFSR 100), so there has not been any recent permitted minerals-related activity in the West French unit. West French contains locations of Inventoried Roadless Area and the Savage Run Wilderness, in which some of the above facilities and activities occur.

French Douglas Accounting Unit

The French Douglas Accounting Unit (French Douglas) contains locations for permitted and potentially permitted dispersed and developed recreation activities, outfitter-guiding, cabins and lodges, utility facilities such as irrigation ditches and headgates, and photography and filming (Figure 12, Table 11). The Forest Service often receives requests for temporary recreation permits, both commercial and non-commercial, for the types of localities observed in the French Douglas unit. Types of recreation permits might be large weddings (non-commercial) or duathlons for fund-raising purposes (commercial). Permits for these types of events can take place in dispersed recreation areas (French Douglas contains nine separate dispersed recreation areas, with a very large total of 334,696 acres) and in developed recreation areas, of which French Douglas has a variety. French Douglas has three trailheads with a total of 96.5 miles of trail, the Rob Roy Campground and Holmes Campground, the latter of which is closed,

the Spruce Mountain Fire and Lookout Tower, and the Keystone Ranger Station and Work Center. The Keystone facility is a popular locality for non-commercial recreation permits as well as cabin rental and crew quarters. Several permitted outfitter-guides operate in the French Douglas unit, including backpackers, campers and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear. While there are numerous permitted outfitter-guide assigned campsites in several of the units, there are none in French Douglas. Five privately-owned recreation residences occur in French Douglas.

Permitted utility facilities in French Douglas are seven miles of above-ground power line, eight headgate/diversion structures, one mile of earthen ditch, 11.5 miles of water pipeline (short segments, some above-ground and some below-ground), and 8.5 miles of below-ground water pipeline. Snowy Range Highway, which is a popular destination for commercial photography and filming permittees, runs to the north of the French Douglas unit so photography and filming permits are not likely to be requested for this unit; in fact, none have been recently issued for any localities in the unit. All recently-issued recreational prospecting permits have been issued for the vicinity of Brush Creek and North Brush Creek Road (NFSR 100), so there has not been any recent permitted minerals-related activity in the French Douglas unit. French Douglas contains locations of Inventoried Roadless Area and a portion of the Savage Run Wilderness, in which some of the above facilities and activities occur.

Pelton Platte Accounting Unit

The Pelton Platte Accounting Unit (Pelton Platte) contains locations for permitted and potentially permitted dispersed and developed recreation activities, outfitter-guiding, campgrounds, utility facilities such as irrigation ditches and headgates, and photography and filming (Figure 13, Table 12). The Forest Service often receives requests for temporary recreation permits, both commercial and non-commercial, for the types of localities observed in the French Douglas unit. Types of recreation permits might be large weddings (non-commercial) or duathlons for fund-raising purposes (commercial). Permits for these types of events can take place in dispersed recreation areas (Pelton Platte contains the smallest total area of dispersed recreation areas at 4,743 acres) and in developed recreation areas, of which this unit contains a variety. The unit contains four trailheads, 30 miles of trail, and four developed recreation facilities, which include access points to the Upper North Platte River: Pelton Creek, Pickaroon, and Pike Pole campgrounds. Several permitted outfitter-guides operate in the Pelton Platte unit, including backpackers, campers, and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear. There is one permitted outfitter-guide assigned campsite in Pelton Platte, located inside the Platte River Wilderness.

Pelton Platte does not contain any permitted utility facilities. Snowy Range Highway, which is a popular destination for commercial photography and filming permittees, runs to the north of the Pelton Platte, so photography and filming permits are not likely to be requested for this unit; in fact, none have been recently issued for any localities in the unit. All recently-issued recreational prospecting permits have been issued for the vicinity of Brush Creek and North Brush Creek Road (NFSR 100), so there has not been any recently-permitted minerals-related activity in the Pelton Platte unit. Pelton Platte contains locations of Inventoried Roadless Area and the Platte River Wilderness, in which some of the above facilities and activities occur.

Fox Wood Accounting Unit

The Fox Wood Accounting Unit (Fox Wood) contains locations for permitted and potentially permitted dispersed and developed recreation activities, outfitter-guiding, campgrounds, utility facilities such as irrigation ditches and headgates, and photography and filming (Figure 14, Table 13). The Forest Service often receives requests for temporary recreation permits, both commercial and non-commercial, for the types of localities observed in the Fox Wood unit. Types of recreation permits might be large weddings (non-commercial) or duathlons for fund-raising purposes (commercial). Permits for these types of events can take place in dispersed recreation areas (Fox Wood contains 20 different dispersed recreation areas, totaling 138,409 acres) and in developed recreation areas. This unit has five trailheads, a total of 62 miles of trail, the Chimney Park Boy Scout Camp, the Fox Park Work Center, and five campgrounds, one of which is permanently closed. Several permitted outfitter-guides operate in the Pelton Platte unit, including backpackers, campers, numerous river guides, and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear. Additionally, Fox Wood has the second-highest number of recreation residences at 26.

As for permitted utility sites, there are 28 miles of above-ground power line, and two total miles of earthen irrigation ditches with no associated headgate/diversion structures. Snowy Range Highway, which is a popular destination for commercial photography and filming permittees, runs to the north of the Pelton Platte, so photography and filming permits are not likely to be requested for this unit; in fact, none have been recently issued for any localities in the unit. The Forest Service has issued numerous permits to recreational mineral prospectors for use in the vicinity of the Bobbie Thompson Campground; area streams are a popular location for gold panners. Snowy Range Highway, which is a popular destination for commercial photography and filming permittees, runs to the north of the Fox Wood, so photography and filming permits are not likely to be requested for this unit; in fact, none have been recently issued for any localities in the unit. Fox Wood contains locations of Inventoried Roadless Area, in which some of the above facilities and activities occur. The unit does not contain any Wilderness area.

Owen Sheep Accounting Unit

The Owen Sheep Accounting Unit (Owen Sheep) contains locations for permitted and potentially permitted dispersed and developed recreation activities, outfitter-guiding, campgrounds, utility facilities such as irrigation ditches and headgates, and photography and filming (Figure 15, Table 14). The Forest Service often receives requests for temporary recreation permits, both commercial and non-commercial, for the types of localities observed in the Fox Wood unit. Types of recreation permits might be large weddings (non-commercial) or duathlons for fund-raising purposes (commercial). Permits for these types of events can take place in dispersed recreation areas (Owen Sheep contains four separate dispersed recreation areas, totaling 107,625 acres) and developed recreation areas. Owen Sheep has two trailheads, 13 total miles of trail in this unit, along with one campground (Lake Owen). Several permitted outfitter-guides operate in the Owen Sheep unit, including backpacking and camping trips and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear.

Permitted utility facilities in Owen Sheep are two miles of above-ground electric wire, four headgate/diversion structures, six miles of earthen ditch, six miles of both above- and below-ground pipeline, and 5.5 miles of below-ground water pipeline. Snowy Range Highway, which is a popular destination for commercial photography and filming permittees, runs to the north of the Owen Sheep, so photography and filming permits are not likely to be requested for this unit; in fact, none have been recently issued for any localities in the unit. All recent recreational prospecting permits have been issued for streams in the vicinity of Brush Creek and North Brush Creek Road (NFSR 100) and the Bobbie Thompson Campground, so there has not been any recently-permitted minerals-related activity in the Owen Sheep unit. Owen Sheep contains areas of designated Roadless Area, in which some of the above facilities and activities occur; there are no Wilderness areas located in this unit.

Environmental Consequences of the Alternatives:

No Action – Description of Existing Condition for Special Uses

Even though the Medicine Bow National Forest is suffering epidemic levels of beetle infestation and may not be at what most visitors would consider optimal health, Special Uses continues to receive numerous requests for recreation, lands and minerals permitting, leasing and easement opportunities. Developed recreation facilities such as campgrounds and trails are maintained by forest personnel, so the number of permits issued for events at these localities is not likely to be directly or indirectly affected by the No Action plan. Additionally, as a requirement of the operation and maintenance plans attached to their authorizations, holders are required to keep their facilities free and clear of vegetative debris. If this is any indication, the No Action alternative would have no measurable direct, indirect or cumulative effects to Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed.

Jack Savery Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Jack Savery Accounting Unit (Figure 2, Table 1). The Jack Savery holds plenty of recreation opportunities; dispersed recreation areas in Jack Savery total over 423,000 acres; also, there are developed areas including two trailheads, 70.5 miles of trail including the CDNSC, the Jack Creek Campground, and the Jack Creek Guard Station and Crew Quarters; these developed locations are maintained by forest personnel, so the number of recreation permits issued for these localities is not likely to be directly or indirectly affected by the No Action plan. Even if conditions may not be at what most forest visitors would consider optimal, there has been no noticeable decline in the number of requests received, and permits issued, for a variety of Special Uses activities and utilities. For example, a permit was recently issued for the Jack Creek Crew Guard Station and Crew Quarters to be used as the site for a large wedding, and the Crew Quarters are typically used to house summer crew, as well. Additionally, several permitted outfitter-guides continue to operate in the Jack Savery unit, including backpacking and

camping trips along the CDNST and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear. Therefore, the permitted recreation opportunities in both dispersed and developed recreation areas in the Jack Savery unit would not undergo any direct or indirect effects due to the No Action alternative.

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to permitted utility facilities in the Jack Savery unit. Operation and maintenance plans for facility permits require permittees to keep their facilities clear of vegetation and debris. Therefore, it is unlikely that the No Action alternative would have an effect to these facilities, which include the Bridger Peak Radio Repeater, three miles of earthen ditches, and three headgate/diversion structures. Additionally, the current condition of the Sandy Battle unit has not prevented commercial photography and filming applications from being submitted and permits being issued, particularly for the Battle Highway and CDNST trailhead. All recent recreational prospecting permits have been issued for the Medicine Bow accounting units, so it is unlikely that these types of permits would be directly or indirectly effected by the No Action alternative.

Cumulative Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable cumulative effects to Special Uses authorizations in the Jack Savery unit and would not significantly alter the use patterns currently observed.

Sandy Battle Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to Special Uses and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Sandy Battle Accounting Unit, particularly as this unit has a relatively limited amount of permitted and/or potentially permitted locations (Figure 3, Table 2). While there is a relatively large coverage of dispersed recreation area in Sandy Battle, totaling over 347,000 acres collectively, there are only two developed trailheads, 74 total miles of trail, and Battle Creek Campground, which is permanently closed; these developed locations are maintained by forest personnel, so the number of recreation permits issued for these localities is not likely to be directly or indirectly affected by the No Action plan. Nevertheless, though conditions may not be at what most forest visitors would consider optimal, there has been no noticeable decline in the number of requests received, and permits issued, for a variety of Special Uses authorizations. For example, several new permits have been issued for outfitter-guides to operate in the Sandy Battle unit, particularly hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear.

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to permitted utility facilities in the Sandy Battle unit, particularly as this unit remains relatively undeveloped. Operation and maintenance plans for facility permits require permittees to keep their facilities clear of vegetation and debris. Therefore, it is unlikely that the No Action alternative would have an effect to these facilities, which include 34 miles of earthen ditchline with five associated headgate/diversion structures. Additionally, the current condition of the Sandy Battle unit has not prevented commercial photography and filming applications from being submitted and permits being issued. Most, if not all recent

recreational prospecting permits have been issued for the Medicine Bow units, so it is unlikely that these types of permits would be directly or indirectly effected by the No Action alternative.

Cumulative Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable cumulative effects on Special Uses authorizations in the Sandy Battle unit and would not significantly alter the use patterns currently observed.

Battle Pass Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Battle Pass Accounting Unit. The Battle Pass unit has plenty of recreation opportunities to choose from (Figure 4, Table 3). Dispersed recreation areas in Battle Pass collectively total over 39,000 acres. Also, there are developed areas including seven trailheads, 69 miles of trail including a segment of the CDNST, Bottle Creek Campground, and Haskins Creek Campground, which is permanently closed. These developed locations are maintained by forest personnel, so the number of recreation permits issued for these localities is not likely to be directly or indirectly affected by the No Action plan. Even if conditions may not be at what most forest visitors would consider optimal, there has been no noticeable decline in the number of requests received for a variety of Special Uses authorizations. For example, several permits have been recently issued for permitted outfitter-guides to operate in the Battle Pass unit, including backpackers and campers trips along the CDNST and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear. There is also one permitted outfitter-guide assigned site located in the Huston Park Wilderness; this campsite continues to be utilized by the permittee.

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to permitted utility facilities in the Battle Pass unit, particularly as this unit remains relatively undeveloped. Operation and maintenance plans for facility permits require holders to keep their facilities clear of vegetation and debris. Therefore, it is unlikely that the No Action alternative would have an effect to these facilities, which include four headgate/diversion structures, eight miles of earthen ditchline, and 0.07 miles of pipeline. Additionally, the current condition of the Battle Pass unit has not discouraged commercial photography and filming applicants from seeking permits for the Battle Highway area. All recently-issued recreational prospecting permits have been for localities in the Medicine Bow units, so it is unlikely that these types of permits would be directly or indirectly effected by the No Action alternative.

Cumulative Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable cumulative effects on Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the use patterns currently observed in the Battle Pass unit.

Green Hog Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Green Hog Accounting Unit (Figure 5, Table 4). The Green Hog unit has plenty of opportunities for permitted recreation activities; dispersed recreation areas in this unit total over 92,000 acres. Also, there are four trailheads, 90.5 total miles of trail, including a segment of the CDNST, Hog Park and Lakeview campgrounds, and Hog Park picnic area; these developed locations are maintained by forest personnel, so the number of recreation permits issued for these localities is not likely to be directly or indirectly affected by the No Action plan. Even if conditions may not be at what most forest visitors would consider optimal, there has been no noticeable decline in the number of requests received, and permits issued, for a variety of Special Uses activities. For example, several permits have been issued, one recently, for permitted outfitter-guides to operate in the Sandy Battle unit, including backpackers and campers along the CDNST and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear. There are also four permitted outfitter-guide assigned sites, three of which are located in the Encampment Wilderness; each of these campsites continue to be utilized by permittees.

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to permitted utility facilities in the Green Hog unit. Operation and maintenance plans for facility authorizations require permittees to keep their facilities clear of vegetation and debris. Therefore, it is unlikely that the No Action alternative would have an effect to these facilities, which include four headgate/diversion structures, nine miles of earthen ditchline, and 25 miles of below-ground water pipeline. Additionally, as Battle Highway is located north of this unit, there have not been, and are not likely to be, any photography and filming permits issued for Green Hog, and there would be no direct or indirect effects to these types of permits. All recently-issued recreational prospecting permits have been for locations in the Medicine Bow units, so it is unlikely that these types of permits would be directly or indirectly effected by the No Action alternative.

Cumulative Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable cumulative effects on Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the use patterns currently observed in the Green Hog Unit.

Big Blackhall Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Big Blackhall Accounting Unit (Figure 6, Table 5). The Big Blackhall unit has plenty of recreation opportunities. Dispersed recreation areas in this unit total over 85,000 acres. There are also five trailheads, 17 total miles of trail, and the Blackhall Mountain Lookout Tower; these developed locations

are maintained by forest personnel, so the number of recreation permits issued for these localities is not likely to be directly or indirectly affected by the No Action plan. Even if conditions may not be at what most forest visitors would consider optimal, there has been no noticeable decline in the number of requests received, and permits issued, for a variety of Special Uses activities and utilities. For example, several permits have been issued for outfitter-guides who currently operate in the Big Blackhall unit, including backpackers and campers operating in the Encampment Wilderness and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear. There is also one permitted outfitter-guide assigned campsite in Big Blackhall, which continues to be utilized. Additionally, the unit contains no developed campgrounds or picnic areas, so again the No Action plan would pose no effects to permits that would take place in these types of facilities. This unit also contains one permitted recreation residence; the associated operation and maintenance plan requires the holder to keep the cabin free and clear of vegetative debris, so the No Action alternative is not likely to have direct or indirect effects to this permit.

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to permitted utility facilities in the Big Blackhall unit, particularly as this unit remains relatively undeveloped. Operation and maintenance plans for facility permits require holders to keep their facilities clear of vegetation and debris. Therefore, it is unlikely that the No Action alternative would have an effect to these facilities, which include the Blackhall Mountain Radio Repeater and 15.5 miles of earthen ditches with fourteen associated headgate/diversion structures. Additionally, as Battle Highway is located north of this unit, there have not been, and are not likely to be, any photography and filming permits issued for Big Blackhall, and there would be no direct or indirect effects to these types of permits. All recent recreational prospecting permits have been issued for the Medicine Bow units, so it is unlikely that these types of permits would be directly or indirectly effected by the No Action alternative.

Cumulative Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable cumulative effects on Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the use patterns currently observed in the Big Blackhall unit.

Rock Morgan Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Rock Morgan Accounting Unit (Figure 7, Table 6). Recreation opportunities in the unit is relatively limited; dispersed recreation areas in this unit total over 103,000 acres. There are also five trailheads, a total of 48.5 miles of trails, and Deep Creek Campground; these developed locations are maintained by forest personnel, so the number of recreation permits issued for these localities is not likely to be directly or indirectly affected by the No Action plan. Even if conditions may not be at what most forest visitors would consider optimal, there has been no noticeable decline in the number of requests received, and authorizations issued, for a variety of Special Uses activities and utilities. For example, the Boy Scouts of America recently completed a public works project by staying at the Deep Creek

Campground and clearing debris from the Crater Lake Trail. As the Boy Scouts plan to return annually for the same project, the No Action alternative is not likely to have a direct or indirect effect to these and similar Special Uses activities.

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to permitted utility facilities in the Rock Morgan unit, particularly as this unit remains relatively undeveloped. Operation and maintenance plans for facility authorizations require holders to keep their facilities clear of vegetation and debris. Therefore, it is unlikely that the No Action alternative would have an effect to these facilities, which include the Rock Mountain communication site, four miles of earthen ditches and three associated headgate/diversion structures. Additionally, as there have not been any recent permits issued for photography and filming activities in this unit, the No Action alternative is not likely to present any direct or indirect effects to these types of permits. All recently-issued recreational prospecting permits have been for locations in the vicinity of South Brush Creek, which is located to the southwest of this unit; therefore, it is not likely that these types of permits would be directly or indirectly effected by the No Action alternative.

Cumulative Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable cumulative effects on Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the use patterns currently observed in the Rock Morgan unit.

Bow Kettle Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Bow Kettle Accounting Unit (Figure 8, Table 7). The Bow Kettle unit has a variety of recreation opportunities; dispersed recreation areas in this unit total just over 57,000 acres. There are four trailheads, 86.5 trails, the Bow River Campground, and the Bow River Work Center and Cabin; these developed locations are maintained by forest personnel, so the number of recreation permits issued for these localities is not likely to be directly or indirectly affected by the No Action plan. Additionally, the Bow River Work Center is located in a large meadow and would likely not be affected by the No Action alternative. Even if conditions may not be at what most forest visitors would consider optimal, there has been no noticeable decline in the number of requests received, and permits issued, for a variety of Special Uses activities and utilities. For example, several permits have been issued for outfitter-guides who currently operate in the Bow Kettle unit, including backpackers, campers and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear. Since the single permitted outfitter-guide assigned site in Bow Kettle continues to be utilized, the No Action plan is not likely to have direct or indirect effects to these types of permits.

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to permitted utility facilities in the Bow Kettle unit, particularly as this unit remains relatively undeveloped. Operation and maintenance plans for facility authorizations require holders to keep their facilities clear of vegetation

and debris. Therefore, it is unlikely that the No Action alternative would have an effect to these facilities, which include eight headgate/diversion structures, 6.5 total miles of earthen ditches, and 2 miles of pipeline. Additionally, as there have not been any recent permits issued for photography and filming activities in this unit, the No Action alternative is not likely to present any direct or indirect effects to these types of permits, either. Most, if not all recent recreational prospecting permits have been issued for the vicinity of South Brush Creek, which is located to the southwest of Bow Kettle; therefore, it is not likely that these types of permits would be directly or indirectly effected by the No Action alternative.

Cumulative Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable cumulative effects on Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the use patterns currently observed in the Bow Kettle Unit.

Cedar Brush Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Cedar Brush Accounting Unit (Figure 9, Table 8). The Cedar Brush unit has a variety of recreation opportunities; dispersed recreation areas in this unit total just over 238,000 acres. There are also 10 trailheads, 92.5 total miles of trail, Lincoln Park and South Brush Creek campgrounds, and the Brush Creek Visitors Center and Work Center complex, which includes a campground for campground hosts, a bunkhouse, a cabin, and a newly-constructed pavilion; these developed locations are maintained by forest personnel, so the number of recreation permits issued for these localities is not likely to be directly or indirectly affected by the No Action plan. Even if conditions may not be at what most forest visitors would consider optimal, there has been no noticeable decline in the number of requests received, and permits issued, for a variety of Special Uses activities and utilities. For example, the Forest Service continues to receive numerous request for commercial and non-commercial recreation permits for these areas, including weddings, reunions, triathlons, snowmobile testing, and outfitter-guiding. Cedar Brush contains one permitted outfitter-guide assigned campsite, which continues to be utilized under current conditions. There is also one recreation residence in this unit; because the holder is required to keep the cabin free and clear of vegetative debris, the No Action alternative is not likely to have a direct or indirect effect to these types of permitted structures.

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to permitted utility facilities in the Cedar Brush unit. Operation and maintenance plans for facility authorizations require holders to keep their facilities clear of vegetation and debris. Therefore, it is unlikely that the No Action alternative would have an effect to these facilities, which are the Kenneday Peak Radio Repeater, a very short above-ground power line for CP&L, seven headgate/diversion structures, over 22,000 collective miles of earthen ditches, and one stream gage. Lincoln Park and South Brush Creek campgrounds and the immediate vicinity are particularly popular among recreational prospectors, and the Forest Service continues to issue numerous permits for these activities in this unit. Despite current conditions, the

Snowy Range Highway, which clips the south-eastern corner of the unit, remains a popular destination for commercial photography and filming permittees, so the No Action plan is not likely to have a direct or indirect effect on the number of permits issued for these types of activities.

Cumulative Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable cumulative effects on Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the use patterns currently observed in the Cedar brush unit.

North Corner Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the North Corner Accounting Unit (Figure 10, Table 9). The North Corner unit has plenty of recreation opportunities; dispersed recreation coverage in this unit totals just over 234,000 acres with 11 separate areas. There are also six trailheads, 52.5 miles of trail, thirteen campgrounds and/or picnic areas, and St. Alban's chapel; these developed locations are maintained by forest personnel, so the number of recreation permits issued for these localities is not likely to be directly or indirectly affected by the No Action plan. Even if conditions may not be what most forest visitors would consider optimal, there has been no noticeable decline in the number of requests received, and permits issued, for a variety of Special Uses activities and utilities. For example, the Forest Service continues to receive numerous requests for weddings at St. Alban's chapel, and there are several current permits for outfitter-guides who operate in the North Corner unit, including backpacking and camping trips and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear. North Corner contains one permitted outfitter-guide assigned campsite, which continues to be utilized under current conditions. Of all the Accounting Units, North Corner contains the largest number of recreation residences at 71; since permit holders are required to keep their cabins free and clear of vegetative debris, the No Action alternative would not have a direct or indirect effect to these types of permitted structures.

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to authorized utility facilities in the North Corner unit. Operation and maintenance plans for facility permits require permit holders to keep their facilities clear of vegetation and debris. Therefore, it is unlikely that the No Action alternative would have an effect to these facilities, which are the Little Brooklyn lake electronic site, 13,722 miles of above-ground electric line, two headgate/diversion structures, two miles of earthen ditches, and 0.75 miles of below-ground water pipeline. Additionally, as there have not been any recent permits issued for photography and filming activities in this unit, the No Action alternative is not likely to present any direct or indirect effects to these types of permits. Most, if not all recent recreational prospecting permits have been issued for the vicinity of South Brush Creek, which is located to the southwest of the Cedar Brush unit; therefore, it is not likely that these types of permits would be directly or indirectly effected by the No Action alternative.

Cumulative Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable cumulative effects on Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the use patterns currently observed in the North Corner unit.

West French Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the West French Accounting Unit (Figure 11, Table 10). The West French unit has a variety of recreation opportunities; dispersed recreation coverage in this unit totals just over 49,000 acres. There are also 15 trailheads, 87 miles of trails, five campgrounds and/or picnic areas, and the Snow Survey Cabin; these developed locations are maintained by forest personnel, so the number of recreation permits issued for these localities is not likely to be directly or indirectly affected by the No Action plan. Even if conditions may not be at what most forest visitors would consider optimal, there has been no noticeable decline in the number of requests received, and permits issued, for a variety of Special Uses activities and utilities. For example, there are several current permits for outfitter-guides who operate in the West French unit, including backpackers, campers and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear. There are three recreation residences in this unit, as well as the privately-owned resort Medicine Bow Lodge; since permittees are required to keep the cabins in these localities free and clear of vegetative debris, the No Action alternative would not have a direct or indirect effect to these types of permitted structures. West French contains one permitted outfitter-guide assigned campsite, which continues to be utilized under current conditions. The Lake Marie area is largely situated within French Douglas; in addition to heavy traffic from general recreationists, this area is a popular locality for numerous activities that require permits, such as weddings and commercial photography and filming (often using drones). Under current conditions, the Forest Service continues to issue permits for a variety of activities in the vicinity of Lake Marie.

While the West French unit contains a relatively large number of permitted utility facilities, the No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to these authorizations. Operation and maintenance plans for facility authorizations require permittees to keep their facilities clear of vegetation and debris. Therefore, it is unlikely that the No Action alternative would have an effect to these facilities, which are the cell tower on Barrett Ridge, four miles of above-ground power line, six headgate/diversion structures, .02 miles of above-ground pipeline with springbox and storage tanks, and one stream gage. Additionally, the Forest Service continues to issue numerous photography and filming permits for the Snowy Range Highway and particularly the Lake Marie vicinity; therefore, the No Action alternative is unlikely to have any direct or indirect effects to these types of permits. Most, if not all recent recreational prospecting permits have been issued for the vicinity of South Brush Creek, which is located to the southwest of the Cedar Brush unit; therefore, it is not likely that these types of permits would be directly or indirectly affected by the No Action alternative.

Cumulative Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable cumulative effects on Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the use patterns currently observed in the West French unit.

French Douglas Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the French Douglas Accounting Unit (Figure 12, Table 11). The French Douglas unit has a variety of recreation opportunities; dispersed recreation coverage in this unit totals 334,696 acres. There are also three trailheads, a total of 96.5 miles of trail, the Rob Roy Campground, Holmes Campground (permanently closed), the Spruce Mountain Fire and Lookout Tower, and the Keystone Ranger Station and Work Center; these developed locations are maintained by forest personnel, so the number of recreation permits issued for these localities is not likely to be directly or indirectly affected by the No Action plan. Even if conditions may not be at what most forest visitors would consider optimal, there has been no noticeable decline in the number of requests received, and permits issued, for a variety of Special Uses activities and utilities. For example, there are several current permits for outfitter-guides who operate in the French Douglas unit, including backpackers, campers and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear. The five recreation residences should not experience any direct or indirect effects either, as the operation and maintenance plans require holders to keep the immediate vicinity of these cabins free and clear of vegetative debris.

While the West French unit contains a relatively large amount of permitted utility facilities, the No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to these types of structures. Operation and maintenance plans for facility authorizations require holders to keep their facilities clear of vegetation and debris. Therefore, it is unlikely that the No Action alternative would have an effect to these facilities, which are seven miles of above-ground power line, eight headgate/diversion structures, one mile of earthen ditchline, 11.5 miles of water pipeline (short segments, some above-ground and some below-ground), and 8.5 miles of below-ground water pipeline. Additionally, as there have not been any recent permits issued for photography and filming activities in this unit, the No Action alternative is not likely to present any direct or indirect effects to these types of permits. Most, if not all recent recreational prospecting permits have been issued for the vicinity of South Brush Creek, which is located to the southwest quarter of Cedar Brush; therefore, it is not likely that these types of permits would be directly or indirectly effected by the No Action alternative.

Cumulative Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable cumulative effects on Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the use patterns currently observed in the French Douglas unit.

Pelton Platte Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Pelton Platte Accounting Unit (Figure 13, Table 12). The Pelton Platte unit has a variety of recreation opportunities; dispersed recreation coverage in this unit is relatively small, covering a total of only 4,743 acres. There are also four trailheads, 30 miles of trail, and about four campgrounds and/or picnic areas with access to the Upper North Platte River; these developed locations are maintained by forest personnel, so the number of recreation permits issued for these localities is not likely to be directly or indirectly affected by the No Action plan. Even if conditions may not be at what most forest visitors would consider optimal, there has been no noticeable decline in the number of requests received, and permits issued, for a variety of Special Uses activities and utilities. For example, there are numerous current permits for outfitter-guides who operate in the Pelton Plate unit, including backpackers, campers, river guides and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear. The single permitted outfitter-guide assigned campsite located in Pelton Platte is inside the Wilderness; wilderness areas will not be treated, so the No Action plan would not have any direct or indirect effects on this site.

Pelton Platte does not contain any permitted utility facilities, so there will be no effects to these types of authorizations at present. Additionally, as there have not been any recent permits issued for photography and filming activities in this unit, the No Action alternative is not likely to present any direct or indirect effects to these types of permits, either. All recently-issued recreational prospecting permits have been issued for the vicinity of South Brush Creek, which is located to the northwest of Pelton Platte; therefore, it is not likely that these types of permits would be directly or indirectly effected by the No Action alternative.

Cumulative Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable cumulative effects on Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the use patterns currently observed in the Pelton Platte unit.

Fox Wood Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Fox Wood Accounting Unit (Figure 14, Table 13). The Fox Wood unit has a variety of recreation opportunities; dispersed recreation areas total 138,409 acres. There are also five trailheads, a total of 62 miles of trail, the Chimney Park Boy Scout Camp, the Fox Park Work Center, and five campgrounds in the unit, one of which is permanently closed; these developed locations are maintained by forest personnel, so the number of recreation permits issued for these localities is not likely to be directly or indirectly affected by the No Action plan. Even if conditions may not be at what most forest visitors would

consider optimal, there has been no noticeable decline in the number of requests received, and permits issued, for a variety of Special Uses activities and utilities. For example, there are numerous current permits for outfitter-guides who operate in the Fox Wood unit, including backpackers and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear. Fox Wood has the second-highest number of recreation residences at 26; the operation and maintenance plan for these respective permits requires the holders to keep their cabins free and clear of vegetative debris; therefore, the No Action alternative is not likely to have an effect to these types of permits.

While the Fox Wood unit contains a relatively large amount of authorized utilities and facilities, the No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to these types of structures. Operation and maintenance plans for facility authorizations require holders to keep their facilities clear of vegetation and debris. Therefore, it is unlikely that the No Action alternative would have an effect to these facilities, which are 28 miles of above-ground power line and 2 miles of earthen ditches. Additionally, as there have not been any permits recently issued for photography and filming activities in this unit, the No Action alternative is not likely to present any direct or indirect effects to these types of permits. Most, if not all recent recreational prospecting permits have been issued for the vicinity of South Brush Creek, which is located to the northwest of Fox Wood; therefore, it is not likely that these types of permits would be directly or indirectly effected by the No Action alternative.

Cumulative Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable cumulative effects on Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the use patterns currently observed in the Fox Wood unit.

Owen Sheep Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Owen Sheep Accounting Unit (Figure 15, Table 14). The Owen Sheep unit has a variety of recreation opportunities to choose from; the dispersed recreation areas total 107,625 acres. There are also two trailheads, 13 miles of trail, and Lake Owen Campground; these developed locations are maintained by forest personnel, so the number of recreation permits issued for these localities is not likely to be directly or indirectly affected by the No Action plan. Even if conditions may not be at what most forest visitors would consider optimal, there has been no noticeable decline in the number of requests received, and permits issued, for a variety of Special Uses activities and utilities. For example, there are numerous current permits for outfitter-guides who operate in the Owen Sheep unit, including backpackers and hunters in search of big game such as moose and bear.

While the Owen Sheep unit contains a relatively small amount of authorized facilities and utilities, the No Action alternative would have no measurable direct or indirect effects to these types of structures. Operation and maintenance plans for facility permits require permittees to keep their facilities clear of vegetation and debris. Therefore, it is unlikely that the No Action alternative would have an effect to

these facilities, which are 2 miles of above-ground electric wire, four headgate/diversion structures, six miles of earthen ditch, six collective miles of both above- and below-ground pipeline, and 5.5 miles of below-ground water pipeline. Additionally, as there have not been any recent permits issued for photography and filming activities in this unit, the No Action alternative is not likely to present any direct or indirect effects to these types of permits. All recent recreational prospecting permits have been issued for the vicinity of South Brush Creek, which is located to the northwest of Owen Sheep; therefore, it is not likely that these types of permits would be directly or indirectly affected by the No Action alternative.

Cumulative Effects of No Action

The No Action alternative would have no measurable cumulative effects on Special Uses authorizations and would not significantly alter the use patterns currently observed on the Owen Sheep unit.

Modified Proposed Action

The effects of proposed vegetation management activities, including prescribed fire, mechanical, and hand treatment methods, are considered for Special Uses authorizations in the Brush Creek/Hayden and Laramie districts. Areas have been proposed for prescribed burning using jackpot, pile burning, and broadcast burning. Maintenance burns on previously treated areas would occur to maintain desired fuels or habitat conditions, and might include prescribed burning on portions of Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs). Treatment opportunity areas in IRAs were proposed by Cooperating Agencies and the Forest Service to protect communities at risk; threatened, endangered, and sensitive wildlife habitat; critical infrastructure; and municipal water supplies. No new permanent or temporary road construction would occur in IRAs. Any measurable effects of prescribed burns would be from smoke cover and/or temporary road closures associated with the burn.

The mechanical alternative of treatment includes cutting trees or shrubs using a variety of methods such as clearcutting, group and individual tree selection, salvage, mastication, sanitation, and thinning. It would include cutting trees that have encroached on grass and shrub lands to maintain desired species dominance and improve wildlife habitat. The mechanical treatment of affected trees and shrubs is not likely to have direct, indirect or cumulative effects on Special Uses. Any measurable negative effects would be negligible, and much fewer than those of prescribed burns due to the lack of smoke. Any associated road closures may be a temporary inconvenience to recreationists. Removal of dead and dying trees would be beneficial to both summer and winter recreationists such as backpackers and snowmobilers, as it reduces the risk of falling hazard trees. The removal of hazard trees would also minimize the risk of damage to authorized infrastructure, such as irrigation ditches, pipelines, and cell towers. Improved forest health and diversity overall, as well as a reduction in frequency and intensity of wildfires, is likely to increase the number of authorizations. This includes an increase in the number of people who want to engage in recreational prospecting, such as gold panning. Mechanical treatment would likely have no cumulative effect on Special uses authorizations.

Hand treatment may consist of using chainsaws or other tools to remove dead or dying trees without the use of heavy equipment. The hand treatment of affected trees and shrubs is not likely to have any direct or indirect effects on Special Uses. Any measurable negative effects would be negligible, and much fewer than those of prescribed burns due to the lack of smoke. Temporary closures for the treatment may result in negligible impacts due to inaccessibility to some areas for a short period of time. Noise from chainsaws may affect quality of experience of permit-holding commercial and non-commercial recreationists and commercial film crews. Clearing out dead and dying trees would be beneficial to permittees who use trails, even those in the winter, as it reduces the risk of falling hazard trees. It would also minimize the risk of hazard trees falling onto infrastructure, such as irrigation ditches, pipelines, and cell towers. Improved forest health and diversity overall, as well as a reduction in frequency and intensity of wildfires, is likely to increase the number of people that hold authorizations. Additionally, mechanical treatment would likely have no cumulative effect on Special Uses authorizations.

Jack Savery Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits, but would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Jack Savery Accounting Unit (Figure 2, Table 1). While some permitted recreation activities and opportunities in the Jack Savery unit may be temporarily suspended due to smoke and/or road closures during prescribed fire treatments, the success of these treatments may result in an increased number of requests received by the Forest Service for recreation permits for both dispersed and developed recreation localities. For example, The Jack Savery unit has the largest amount of dispersed recreation areas; the removal of dead and dying trees from these areas would reduce the risk of injury by falling timber and would beautify the area, which would likely attract more forest visitors and result in additional permittees. Also, backpacking permittees who utilize the CDNST and outfitter-guides who hunt in the area would likely experience an increased number of clients per activity season in the wake of improved wildlife habitat and an overall reduction in wildfire frequency and intensity.

The direct and/or indirect effects of prescribed fire treatments to permitted infrastructure on national Forest lands would be minimal and would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Jack Savery Accounting Unit. Consequences of prescribed burn treatments to utilities in this unit (one radio repeater, 2.5 miles of earthen ditches, and three headgate/diversion structures) are likely to be negligible, since holders are required to keep their facilities free and clear of vegetative debris. The facilities in this unit would benefit if treatments removed dead and dying trees and prevented encroachment of trees near facilities where they did not historically exist. The southern edge of the unit is clipped by Battle Highway, which is a popular destination for photography and filming permittees; smoke from prescribed fire may temporarily suspend filming activities, particularly those which use drones. The Brush Creek/Hayden district does not receive many requests for recreational prospecting or minerals exploration; therefore, prescribed burns would not have a measurable direct or indirect effect to these types of permits.

Direct and Indirect Effects of Mechanical Treatments

Mechanical treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits, but would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Jack Savery Accounting Unit. Any associated road closures may be a temporary inconvenience to currently permitted and potentially recreationists. Clearing out dead and dying trees would be a direct and beneficial effect to both summer and winter permitted recreationists such as campers, backpackers and snowmobilers, as it reduces the risk of falling hazard trees both on and off trails. The removal of dead and dying trees would also minimize the risk damage to authorized infrastructure without the risk of damage by fire. The Brush Creek/Hayden district does not receive many requests for recreational prospecting or minerals exploration; therefore, prescribed burns would not have a measurable direct or indirect effect to these types of permits.

Direct and Indirect Effects of Hand Treatments

Hand treatments would likely have no direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits and potential permits, and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Jack Savery Accounting Unit. Any measurable negative effects would be negligible, and much less than those of prescribed burns due to the lack of smoke. Temporary road closures for treatment may result in a minimal effect due to inaccessibility to some areas for a short period of time. Noise from chainsaws may affect quality of experience for permit-holding commercial and non-commercial recreationists and commercial film crews. Overall, successful treatment is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, easements and/or leases in the Jack Savery unit.

Cumulative Effects of All Treatments Within Reasonable Foreseeable Future

Successful treatment, resulting in improved forest health and diversity overall, as well as a reduction in frequency and intensity of wildfires, is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, leases and/or easements in the Jack Savery unit. This may include an increase in the number of people who want to engage in recreational prospecting, such as gold panning.

Sandy Battle Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals authorizations, but would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Sandy Battle Accounting Unit (Figure 3, Table 2). While permitted and potentially permitted recreation activities and opportunities in this unit may be temporarily suspended due to smoke and/or road closures during prescribed fire treatments, the success of these treatments may result in an increased number of requests received by the Forest Service for recreation permits for both dispersed and developed recreation localities. Permitted recreation opportunities in the Sandy Battle unit include a total of 347,000 acres of dispersed recreation areas, two trailheads, 74.5 miles of trails, and outfitter-guiding. The removal of dead and dying trees from locations utilized by permittees would

reduce the risk of injury by falling timber, beautify the area, and attract more forest visitors, which would likely result in an increased number of permit requests. Sandy Battle's only developed recreation facility, Battle Creek Campground, is permanently closed; prescribed burns would not directly or indirectly affect recreation permits for this closed facility.

The direct and/or indirect effects of prescribed burns to lands authorizations would be minimal and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Sandy Battle Accounting Unit, particularly as the Sandy Battle unit remains relatively undeveloped. The only authorized facilities here are 34 collective miles of earthen ditchline with five associated headgate/diversion structures. Direct and/or indirect effects of prescribed burn treatments to facilities in this unit are likely to be negligible, especially since holders are required to keep facilities free and clear of vegetative debris. Successful treatment would be an indirect benefit if the removal of dead and dying trees prevents encroachment of trees near these facilities where they did not historically exist. Sandy Battle is bisected by Battle Highway, which is a popular destination for commercial photography and filming permittees; smoke from prescribed burns would likely only temporarily postpone these types of permits. The Brush Creek/Hayden district does not receive many requests for recreational prospecting or minerals exploration; therefore, prescribed burns would not have a measurable direct or indirect effect to these types of permits in the Sandy Battle unit.

Direct and Indirect Effects of Mechanical Treatments

Mechanical treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals authorizations, but would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Sandy Battle Accounting Unit. Any associated road closures may be a temporary inconvenience to some permitted recreationists. Clearing out dead and dying trees would be a direct and beneficial effect to both summer- and winter-permitted recreationists such as campers, backpackers and snowmobilers, as it reduces the risk of falling hazard trees both on and off trails. The removal of dead and dying trees would also minimize the risk of damage to permitted infrastructure without the risk of damage by fire. The Brush Creek/Hayden district does not receive many requests for recreational prospecting or minerals exploration; therefore, prescribed burns would not have a direct or indirect to these types of permits for the Sandy Battle unit.

Direct and Indirect Effects of Hand Treatments

Hand treatments would likely have no direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits and potential permits, and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Sandy Battle Accounting Unit. Any measurable negative effects would be negligible, and much less than those of prescribed burns due to the lack of smoke. Temporary road closures for treatment may result in a minimal effect due to inaccessibility to some areas for a short period of time. Noise from chainsaws may affect quality of experience for permit-holding commercial and non-commercial recreationists and commercial film crews. Overall, successful treatment is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, easements and/or leases in the Sandy battle unit.

Cumulative Effects of All Treatments Within Reasonable Foreseeable Future

Successful treatment, resulting in improved forest health and diversity overall, as well as a reduction in frequency and intensity of wildfires, is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, leases and and/or easements in the Sandy Battle unit. This includes an increase in the number of people who want to engage in recreational prospecting, such as gold panning, in this unit.

Battle Pass Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits, but would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Battle Pass Accounting Unit (Figure 4, Table 3). Permitted and potentially permitted recreation opportunities in this unit include about 40,000 acres of dispersed recreation area, one open campground, seven trailheads, a total of 69 miles of trail, including a segment of the CDNST, and outfitter-guiding. Some of these areas are slated for prescribed fire and, if desired fuels or habitat conditions are met, then despite temporary smoky conditions and/or road closures during treatment, permittees would enjoy an improved overall forest experience. The removal of dead and dying trees from locations utilized by permittees would reduce the risk of injury by falling timber and would beautify the area, which would attract more forest visitors and increase the number of Special Uses applications. There are no cabins or resorts in this unit that could be affected by prescribed fire treatment. The single permitted outfitter-guide assigned campsite is located in Wilderness, which will not be treated.

The direct and/or indirect effects of prescribed fire treatments to lands and minerals permits would be minimal and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Battle Pass Accounting Unit. Facilities in the Battle Pass unit, which consist of four headgates, eight collective miles of earthen ditchline, and a short water pipeline, would benefit indirectly if the removal of dead and dying trees prevented encroachment of trees near these facilities where they did not historically exist. The requirement of permittees to keep these facilities free and clear of vegetation would work beneficially in tandem with prescribed fire to improve overall conditions for permitted facilities. Since most if not all recreational prospecting permits are issued for the Medicine Bow accounting units, these treatments would not have a direct or indirect to these types of permits.

Direct and Indirect Effects of Mechanical Treatments

Mechanical treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits, but would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Battle Pass Accounting Unit. Any associated road closures may be a temporary inconvenience to permitted recreationists. Removal of dead and dying trees would be a direct and beneficial effect to both summer and winter permitted recreationists such as campers, backpackers and snowmobilers, as it reduces the risk of falling hazard trees both on and off trails. The removal of dead and dying trees would also minimize the risk of damage to permitted infrastructure without the risk of damage by treatment fire. The Brush Creek/Hayden district does not receive many requests for recreational prospecting or

minerals exploration; therefore, prescribed burns would not have a direct or indirect to these types of permits in this unit.

Direct and Indirect of Hand Treatments

Hand treatments would likely have no direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits and potential permits, and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Battle Pass Accounting Unit. Any measurable negative effects would be negligible, and much less than those of prescribed burns due to the lack of smoke. Temporary road closures during treatment may result in a minimal effect due to inaccessibility to some areas for a short period of time. Noise from chainsaws may affect quality of experience for permit-holding commercial and non-commercial recreationists and commercial film crews. Overall, successful treatment is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, leases and or easements in the Battle Pass unit.

Cumulative Effects of All Treatments Within Reasonable Foreseeable Future

Successful treatment, resulting in improved forest health and diversity overall, as well as a reduction in frequency and intensity of wildfires, is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, leases and/or easements in the Battle Pass unit. This includes an increase in the number of people who want to engage in recreational prospecting, such as gold panning.

Green Hog Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals authorizations, but would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Green Hog Accounting Unit (Figure 5, Table 4). Recreation opportunities in this unit include dispersed recreation areas totaling 92,000 acres, four trailheads, 90.5 total miles of trail including a segment of the CDNST, two campgrounds and one picnic area, plus permitted outfitter-guiding. Some of these areas are slated for prescribed fire treatment and, if desired fuels or habitat conditions are met, then despite temporary smoky conditions and/or road closures observed during treatment, permitted recreationists would in time enjoy an improved overall experience. The removal of dead and dying trees from locations utilized by permittees would reduce the risk of injury by falling timber and would beautify the area, which would attract more forest visitors and contribute to additional permit applications. There are no cabins or resorts in this unit that would be affected by prescribed fire treatment. Three of the four permitted outfitter-guide assigned campsites are located in Wilderness, which will not be treated; the remaining campsite may be temporarily inaccessible during treatment but will enjoy improved overall conditions of safety and biological diversity following successful treatment.

The direct and/or indirect effects of prescribed fire treatments to lands and minerals authorizations would be minimal and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Green Hog Accounting Unit. Facilities in this unit, consisting of four headgate/diversion structures, nine

collective miles of earthen ditchline, and a 25-mile below-ground water pipeline, would benefit indirectly if the removal of dead and dying timber prevents encroachment of trees near these facilities where they did not historically exist. The requirement of permittees to keep these facilities free and clear of vegetative debris would work beneficially in tandem with prescribed fire to improve overall conditions for these facilities. Since most if not all recreational prospecting permits are issued for the Medicine Bow accounting units, these treatments would not have a direct or indirect effect to these types of permits in the Green Hog unit.

Direct and Indirect Effects of Mechanical Treatments

Mechanical treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals authorizations, but would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Green Hog Accounting Unit. Any associated road closures may be a temporary inconvenience to permitted recreationists. Clearing out dead and dying timber would be a direct and beneficial effect to both summer and winter permitted recreationists such as campers, backpackers and snowmobilers, as it reduces the risk of falling hazard trees both on and off trails. The removal of dead and dying trees would also minimize the risk of damage to permitted infrastructure without the risk of damage by fire during prescribed burn treatments. The Brush Creek/Hayden district does not receive many requests for recreational prospecting or minerals exploration; therefore, prescribed burns would not have a direct or indirect to these types of permits in the Green Hog.

Direct and Indirect of Hand Treatments

Hand treatments would likely have no direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits and potential permits, and would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Green Hog Accounting Unit. Any measurable negative effects would be negligible, and much less than those of prescribed burns due to the lack of smoke cover. Temporary road or area closures for treatment may result in a minimal effect due to inaccessibility for a short period of time. Noise from chainsaws may affect quality of experience for permit-holding commercial and non-commercial recreationists and commercial film crews. Overall, successful treatment is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, leases and or easements in Green Hog.

Cumulative Effects of All Treatments Within Reasonable Foreseeable Future

Successful treatment, resulting in improved forest health and diversity overall, as well as a reduction in frequency and intensity of wildfires, is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, leases and or easements in the Green Hog Accounting Unit. This includes an increase in the number of people who want to engage in recreational prospecting, such as gold panning.

Big Blackhall Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits and/or potential permits, but would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Big Blackhall Accounting Unit (Figure 6, Table 5). While permitted recreation opportunities in the Big Blackhall unit may be temporarily suspended due to smoke and/or road closures during prescribed fire treatments, the success of these treatments may result in an increased number of requests for recreation permits for both dispersed and developed recreation localities. For example, the Blackhall Mountain Lookout Tower is popular among recreationists; the removal of dead and dying trees from the immediate vicinity and the access road and trail would reduce the risk of injury by falling timber and would beautify the area for forest visitors. Also, successful treatment would likely result in an increased number of clients for permitted backpackers who utilize the 17 miles of trail and the outfitter-guides who operate in the unit. The single permitted outfitter-guide assigned campsite in the Big Blackhall unit is located in Wilderness, which will not be treated; camp denizens may experience smoke or temporary road closures associated with prescribed fire.

The direct and/or indirect effects of prescribed fire treatments to lands and minerals permits would be minimal and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Big Blackhall Accounting Unit. The irrigation facilities in the unit, which consist of 14 headgate/diversion structures and fifteen miles of earthen ditchline, would benefit indirectly if the removal of dead and dying timber prevents encroachment of trees near these facilities where they did not historically exist. The requirement of permittees to keep these facilities free and clear of vegetation would work beneficially in tandem with prescribed fire treatment to improve overall conditions of a risk-free environment for authorized facilities. The Brush Creek/Hayden does not receive many requests for recreational prospecting or minerals exploration; therefore, prescribed burns would not have a direct or indirect to these types of permits in Big Blackhall.

Direct and Indirect Effects of Mechanical Treatments

Mechanical treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits, but would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Big Blackhall Accounting Unit. Any associated road closures may be a temporary inconvenience to recreationists. Clearing out dead and dying trees would be a direct and beneficial effect to both summer and winter permitted recreationists such as campers, backpackers and snowmobilers, as it reduces the risk of falling hazard trees both on and off trails. The removal of dead and dying trees would also minimize the risk of damage to permitted infrastructure without the risk of damage by fire during treatments. The Brush Creek/Hayden district does not receive many requests for recreational prospecting or minerals exploration; therefore, prescribed burns would not have a direct or indirect effect to these types of permits.

Direct and Indirect of Hand Treatments

Hand treatments would likely have no direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits and potential permits, and would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Big Blackhall Accounting Unit. Any measurable negative effects would be negligible, and much less than those of prescribed burns due to the lack of smoke cover. Temporary closures for treatment may result in a minimal effect due to inaccessibility to some roads or areas for a short period of time. Noise from chainsaws may affect quality of experience for permit-holding commercial and non-commercial recreationists and commercial film crews. Overall, successful treatment is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, leases and/or easements.

Cumulative Effects of All Treatments Within Reasonable Foreseeable Future

Successful treatment, resulting in improved forest health and diversity overall, as well as a reduction in frequency and intensity of wildfires, is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, leases and or easements in the Big Blackhall unit. This includes an increase in the number of people who want to engage in recreational prospecting, such as gold panning.

Rock Morgan Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits and potential permits, but would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Rock Morgan Accounting Unit. While permitted recreation opportunities in the Rock Morgan unit may be temporarily suspended due to smoke cover and/or road and area closures during prescribed fire treatments, the success of these treatments may result in an increased number of requests received for recreation permits for both dispersed and developed recreation localities. For example, the unit has a relatively large the amount of dispersed recreation areas, as well as five trailheads and 48 miles of trail. The removal of dead and dying timber from these localities would reduce the risk of injury from falling trees and would beautify the area for forest visitors, thereby potentially increasing the number of permit requests.

The direct and/or indirect effects of prescribed fire treatments to lands permits would be minimal and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Rock Morgan Accounting Unit. The irrigation facilities in this unit are minimal, consisting of three headgate/diversion structures and 3.82 collective miles of earthen ditchline, which would benefit indirectly if the removal of dead and dying timber helps prevent encroachment of trees near these facilities where they did not historically exist. Likewise, the Rock Mountain communication site would benefit from prescribed burns if hazardous trees were cleared away from equipment. The requirement of authorization holders to keep these facilities free and clear of vegetation would work beneficially in tandem with prescribed fire treatments to improve overall conditions of a risk-free environment for these facilities. The Brush Creek/Hayden district does not receive many requests for recreational prospecting or minerals

exploration; therefore, prescribed burns would not have a direct or indirect effect to these types of permits in this unit.

Direct and Indirect Effects of Mechanical Treatments

Mechanical treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits and potential permits, but would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Rock Morgan Accounting Unit. Any associated road or area closures may present a temporary inconvenience to permitted recreationists. Clearing out dead and dying timber would be a direct and beneficial effect to both summer and winter recreationists such as backpackers and snowmobilers, as it reduces the risk of falling hazard trees both on and off trails. The removal of dead and dying trees would also minimize the risk damage to permitted infrastructure in this unit.

Direct and Indirect Effects of Hand Treatments

Hand treatments would likely have no direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, minerals and lands permits and potential permits, and would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Rock Morgan Accounting Unit. Any measurable negative effects would be negligible, and much less than those of prescribed burn treatments due to the lack of smoke cover. Temporary road closures for the treatment may result in a low impact due to inaccessibility to some areas for a short period of time. Noise from chainsaws may affect the quality of an outdoor experience for some permit-holding commercial and non-commercial recreationists and commercial film crews. Overall, successful treatment is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, easement and/or leases in this unit.

Cumulative Effects of All Treatments Within Reasonable Foreseeable Future

Successful treatment, resulting in improved forest health and diversity overall, as well as a reduction in frequency and intensity of wildfires, is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, easements and/or leases in the Rock Morgan unit. This includes an increase in the number of people who want to engage in recreational prospecting, such as gold panning.

Bow Kettle Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits and potential permits, but would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Bow Kettle Accounting Unit (Figure 8, Table 7). While permitted or potentially permitted recreation opportunities in this unit may be temporarily suspended due to smoke cover and/or road closures during prescribed fire treatments, the success of these treatments may result in an increased number of requests received for recreation permits for both dispersed and developed recreation localities. For example, the removal of dead and dying timber from the 57,000 total acres of dispersed recreation areas and 86 miles of trail would reduce the risk of injury by falling

trees and would beautify the area for forest visitors, thereby attracting additional tourists and increasing the number of permit applications received. Successful prescribed burn treatment would discourage the encroachment of trees onto developed facilities such as Bow River Campground and Bow River Work Center where they did not exist historically, thereby having no significant direct or indirect effect to the number of permits issued for these facilities. During treatment, camp denizens at the single permitted outfitter-guide assigned campsite may be experience temporary smoke cover and/or inaccessibility due to road closure, but will likely enjoy improved overall conditions of safety and diversity following successful treatment.

The direct and/or indirect effects of prescribed fire treatments to lands permits and potential permits would be minimal and would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Bow Kettle Accounting Unit. Facilities in this unit consist of eight headgate/diversion structures, 6.5 miles of earthen ditchline, two miles of pipeline and the Rock Mountain communication site; these localities would benefit indirectly if the removal of dead and dying timber prevents encroachment of trees near these facilities where they did not historically exist. The requirement of holders to keep their facilities clear of vegetative debris would work beneficially in tandem with prescribed fire to improve overall environmental conditions for permitted facilities. The Brush Creek/Hayden district does not receive many requests for recreational prospecting or minerals exploration; therefore, prescribed burns would not have a direct or indirect effect to these types of permits.

Direct and Indirect Effects of Mechanical Treatments

Mechanical treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation and minerals permits and potential permits, but would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Bow Kettle Accounting Unit. Any associated road closures may be a temporary inconvenience to permitted recreationists. Clearing out dead and dying timber would be a direct and beneficial effect to both summer and winter permitted recreationists such as backpackers and snowmobilers, as it reduces the risk of falling hazard trees both on and off trails. The removal of dead and dying trees would also minimize the risk damage to permitted infrastructure.

Direct and Indirect of Hand Treatments

Hand treatments would likely have no direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, minerals and lands permits and potential permits, and would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Bow Kettle Accounting Unit. Any measurable negative effects would be negligible, and much less than those of prescribed burns due to the lack of smoke. Temporary road closures associated with hand treatment may result in a low impact due to inaccessibility to some areas for a short period of time. Noise from chainsaws may affect the quality of an outdoor experience for permit-holding commercial and non-commercial recreationists and commercial film crews. Overall, successful treatment is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits and/or leases in this unit.

Cumulative Effects of All Treatments Within Reasonable Foreseeable Future

Successful treatment, resulting in improved forest health and diversity overall, as well as a reduction in frequency and intensity of wildfires, is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, easements and/or leases. This includes an increase in the number of people who want permits to engage in recreational prospecting, such as gold panning.

Cedar Brush Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits and or potential permits, but would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Cedar Brush Accounting Unit (Figure 9, Table 8). While permitted or potentially permitted recreation opportunities in the unit may be temporarily suspended due to smoke cover and/or road closures during prescribed fire treatments, the success of these treatments may result in an increased number of requests received for recreation permits for both dispersed and developed recreation localities. For example, North Brush Creek Road is heavily used by permitted outfitter-guide ATV traffic during the summer; the removal of dead and dying timber from these areas would reduce the risk of injury by falling timber and would beautify the area, attracting more forest visitors and potential permittees. The single permitted outfitter-guide assigned campsite in this unit is located in the Savage Run Wilderness, which will not be treated. Also, there is one permitted recreational residence in this unit; operation and maintenance plans require that vegetative debris be kept clear of these cabins, so again smoke and/or road closures would likely be the only direct or indirect effect to the recreation residence in the Cedar Brush unit.

The direct and/or indirect effects of prescribed fire treatments to lands and minerals permits would be minimal and would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Cedar Brush Accounting Unit. Permit holders for utility facilities such as the Kennedy Peak radio repeater and CP&L's above-ground power line are required to keep these facilities clear of vegetation; these efforts completed in good faith would work beneficially in tandem with prescribed fire treatment to improve overall environmental conditions for these facilities. Additionally, the Cedar Brush unit contains 22,000 collective miles of earthen ditchline, seven headgate/diversion structures, and one stream gage; removal of dead and dying vegetation would minimize the chance of trees falling onto these facilities. Recently, the Forest Service has issued many recreational prospecting permits for locations in the Cedar Brush unit; for example, the streams in the vicinity of Lincoln Park, South Brush Creek campgrounds, and North Brush Creek Road are popular among hobbyist gold panners. Prescribed fire treatments would not have a direct or indirect effect to these types of permittees unless they were obstructed by road closures or discouraged by smoke cover.

Direct and Indirect Effects of Mechanical Treatments

Mechanical treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits, but would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in

the Cedar Brush Accounting Unit. Any associated road closures may be a temporary inconvenience to recreationists. Clearing out dead and dying trees would be a direct and beneficial effect to both summer and winter recreationists such as backpackers and snowmobilers, as it reduces the risk of falling hazard trees both on and off trails. The removal of dead and dying timber would also minimize the risk of damage to permitted infrastructure.

Direct and Indirect Effects of Hand Treatments

Hand treatments would likely have no direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, minerals and lands permits and potential permits, and would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Cedar Brush Accounting Unit. Any measurable negative effects would be negligible, and much less than those of prescribed burn treatments due to the lack of smoke cover. Temporary road closures for the treatment may result in a low impact due to inaccessibility to some areas for a short period of time. Noise from chainsaws may affect quality of an outdoor experience for permit-holding commercial and non-commercial recreationists and commercial film crews. Overall, successful treatment is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, easements and/or leases in this unit.

Cumulative Effects of All Treatments Within Reasonable Foreseeable Future

Successful treatment, resulting in improved forest health and diversity overall, as well as a reduction in frequency and intensity of wildfires, is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold or request permits, easements and/or leases. This includes an increase in the number of people who want to engage in recreational prospecting, such as gold panning.

North Corner Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits, but would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the North Corner Accounting Unit (Figure 10, Table 9). While permitted or potentially permitted recreation opportunities in the unit may be temporarily suspended due to smoke cover and/or road closures during prescribed fire treatments, the success of these treatments may result in an increased number of requests received for recreation permits for both dispersed and developed recreation localities. For example, this unit contains the largest number of permitted recreation residences; permittees are required to keep their cabins free and clear of vegetative debris. The efforts of permit holders completed in good faith would work beneficially in tandem with prescribed fire treatments to improve overall conditions and diversify the natural environment for these localities. Other developed recreation facilities in this unit are numerous: there is the Little Brooklyn Lake Guard Station, the Centennial Visitor Center and Work Center, 13 developed campground and/or picnic areas, St. Alban's Chapel, six trailheads and 52 miles of trail. Each of these areas are slated for potential prescribed fire treatments; while permitted and potentially permitted recreation events in the North

Corner unit may be temporarily suspended due to smoke and/or road closures during prescribed fire activity, the success of these treatments may result in an increased number of requests received for recreation permits for both dispersed and developed recreation localities.

The direct and/or indirect effects of prescribed fire treatments to lands and minerals permits would be minimal and would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the North Corner Accounting Unit. Permit holders for utility facilities such as the Little Brooklyn Lake electronic site and CP&L's 13,722 miles of above-ground power line are required to keep these facilities free and clear of vegetative debris; these efforts completed in good faith would work beneficially in tandem with prescribed fire treatments to improve overall conditions for permitted facilities. Irrigation facilities in this unit include two headgate/diversion structures; removal of dead and dying timber would reduce risk of trees falling on these facilities. The Brush Creek/Hayden district does not receive many requests for recreational prospecting or minerals exploration; therefore, prescribed burns would not have a direct or indirect to these types of permits in this unit.

Direct and Indirect Effects of Mechanical Treatments

Mechanical treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation and minerals permits, but would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the North Corner Accounting Unit. Any associated road closures associated with treatments may be a temporary inconvenience to recreationists. Clearing out dead and dying timber would be a direct and beneficial effect to both summer and winter recreationists such as backpackers and snowmobilers, even those in the winter, as it reduces the risk of falling hazard trees both on and off trails. The removal of dead and dying trees would also minimize the risk damage from falling trees to permitted infrastructure.

Direct and Indirect of Hand Treatments

Hand treatments would likely have no direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, minerals and lands permits and potential permitting, and would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the North Corner Accounting Unit. Any measurable negative effects would be negligible, and much less than those of prescribed burns due to the lack of smoke. Temporary road closures related to treatment may result in a low impact due to inaccessibility to some areas for a short period of time. Noise from chainsaws may affect the quality of an outdoor experience for permit-holding commercial and non-commercial recreationists and commercial film crews. Overall, successful treatment is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits and/or leases in this unit.

Cumulative Effects of All Treatments Within Reasonable Foreseeable Future

Successful treatment, resulting in improved forest health and diversity overall, as well as a reduction in frequency and intensity of wildfires, is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, easements and/or leases in the North Corner unit. This includes an increase in the number of people who want to engage in recreational prospecting, such as gold panning.

West French Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits, but would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the West French Accounting Unit (Figure 11, Table 10). While permitted recreation opportunities in the West French unit may be temporarily suspended due to smoke and/or road closures during prescribed fire treatments, the success of these treatments may result in an increased number of requests received for recreation permits for both dispersed and developed localities. This unit contains a relatively high number of developed recreation facilities, including three recreation residences, the historic Medicine Bow Lodge, the Brush Creek Visitor's Center complex, numerous developed campgrounds, and a picnic area. The removal of dead and dying timber from these areas would reduce the risk of injury by falling timber and would beautify the area, thereby attracting additional forest visitors and permittees. There are two permitted outfitter-guide assigned campsites in this unit, one of which is located in Wilderness where no treatment will take place. The other campsite may be temporarily inaccessible due to road closures and/or smoke cover.

The direct and/or indirect effects of prescribed fire treatments to lands and minerals permits would be minimal and would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the West French Accounting Unit. Permit holders for utility facilities are required to keep these facilities free and clear of vegetative debris; these efforts completed in good faith would work beneficially in tandem with prescribed fire treatments to improve overall conditions for permitted facilities. West French contains a relatively large number of permitted facilities; they are the Barrett Ridge Cell Cower, four miles of above-ground power line, six headgate/diversion structures, 8.5 collective miles of earthen ditchline, one stream gage, and a small pipeline with associated springbox and storage tanks. Removal of dead and dying vegetation would reduce the risk of trees falling onto these facilities. The northern edge of the unit is clipped by the Snowy Range Highway, which is a popular destination for photography and filming permittees; smoke from prescribed fire may temporarily suspend filming activities, particularly those which use drones. The Brush Creek/Hayden district does not receive many requests for recreational prospecting or minerals exploration; therefore, prescribed burns would not have a direct or indirect effect to these types of permits in this unit.

Direct and Indirect Effects of Mechanical Treatments

Mechanical treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation and minerals permits, but would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the West French Accounting Unit (Figure 11, Table 10). Any associated road closures may present a temporary inconvenience to permitted recreationists. Clearing out dead and dying timber would be a direct and beneficial effect to both summer and winter recreationists such as backpackers and snowmobilers, as it reduces the risk of falling hazard trees both on and off trails. The removal of dead and dying trees would also minimize the risk damage to permitted infrastructure.

Direct and Indirect of Hand Treatments

Hand treatments would likely have no direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, minerals and lands permits and potential permits, and would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the West French Accounting Unit. Any measurable negative effects would be negligible, and much less than those of prescribed burns due to the lack of smoke cover. Temporary closures during treatment may result in a low impact due to inaccessibility to some areas for a short period of time. Noise from chainsaws may affect the quality of an outdoor experience for permit-holding commercial and non-commercial recreationists and commercial film crews. Overall, successful treatment is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, easements and/or leases in the West French unit.

Cumulative Effects of All Treatments Within Reasonable Foreseeable Future

Successful treatment, resulting in improved forest health and diversity overall, as well as a reduction in the frequency and intensity of wildfires, is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, easements and/or leases. This includes an increase in the number of people who want to engage in recreational prospecting, such as gold panning.

French Douglas Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits and potential permits, but would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the French Douglas Accounting Unit (Figure 12, Table 11). While permitted recreation opportunities in this unit may be temporarily suspended due to smoke and/or road closures during prescribed fire treatments, the success of these treatments may result in an increased number of requests for recreation permits for both dispersed and developed recreation localities. For example, the French Douglas unit has a relatively large amount of dispersed recreation areas (334,696 acres); the removal of dead and dying timber from these areas would reduce the risk of injury by falling timber and would beautify the area, which may increase the number of forest visitors and permits issued. Successful treatment resulting in improved safety, forest diversity and cleared trails and trailheads would benefit outfitter-guides, who would likely experience an increased number of clients per activity season. Additionally, this unit contains three recreation residences, the Keystone Ranger Station and Work Center, Rob Roy Campground, and the Spruce Mountain Fire and Lookout Tower; the removal of dead and dying trees from these areas would reduce the risk of injury by falling timber and would beautify the area for forest visitors and permittees.

The direct and/or indirect effects of prescribed fire treatments to lands and minerals permits would be minimal and would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the French Douglas Accounting Unit. Permit holders for utility facilities are required to keep their facilities free and clear of vegetative debris; these efforts completed in good faith would work beneficially in tandem with prescribed fire treatment to improve overall conditions for permitted facilities. West French contains a

relatively large number of permitted facilities; they are seven miles of above-ground power line, eight headgate/diversion structures, one mile of earthen ditches, 11.5 miles of pipeline, and 8.5 miles of below-ground water pipeline. The irrigation facilities in the French Douglas unit may benefit indirectly if the removal of dead and dying timber prevents encroachment of trees into the vicinity of these facilities where they did not historically exist. The Snowy Range Highway, which is a popular destination for photography and filming permittees, is situated to the north of the French Douglas unit; the Forest Service has not recently received any photography or filming requests for areas within the French Douglas unit, so prescribed burn treatments would not likely have a direct or indirect effect to these types of permits. The Brush Creek/Hayden district does not receive many requests for recreational prospecting or minerals exploration; therefore, prescribed burns in this unit would not have a direct or indirect effect to these types of permits.

Direct and Indirect Effects of Mechanical Treatments

Mechanical treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation and minerals permits, but would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the French Douglas Accounting Unit. Any associated road closures may be a temporary inconvenience to permitted recreationists. Clearing out dead and dying timber would be a direct and beneficial effect to both summer and winter recreationists such as backpackers and snowmobilers, even those in the winter, as it reduces the risk of falling hazard trees both on and off trails. The removal of dead and dying trees would also minimize the risk of damage to permitted infrastructure in this unit.

Direct and Indirect of Hand Treatments

Hand treatments would likely have no direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, minerals and lands permits and potential permits, and would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the French Douglas Accounting Unit. Any measurable negative effects would be negligible, and much less than those of prescribed burns due to the lack of smoke cover. Temporary closures associated with hand treatments may result in a low impact due to inaccessibility to some areas for a short period of time. Noise from chainsaws may affect the quality of an outdoor experience for permit-holding commercial and non-commercial recreationists and commercial film crews. Overall, successful treatment is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, easements and/or leases in this unit.

Cumulative Effects of All Treatments Within Reasonable Foreseeable Future

Successful treatment, resulting in improved forest health and diversity overall, as well as a reduction in frequency and intensity of wildfires, is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, easements and/or leases. This includes an increase in the number of people who want to engage in recreational prospecting, such as gold panning.

Pelton Platte Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits and potential permits, but would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Pelton Platte Accounting Unit. While permitted recreation opportunities in the Pelton Platte unit may be temporarily suspended due to smoke cover and/or road closures during prescribed fire treatments, the success of these treatments may result in an increased number of requests for recreation permits for both dispersed and developed recreation localities. This unit contains only a very small amount of dispersed recreation area at a total of 4,743 acres, and likewise a relatively small amount of developed recreation facilities (four trailheads, 30 miles of trail, and four campgrounds with river access to the Upper North Platte River). Therefore, there would be no significant direct or indirect effects expected to recreation permits. Additionally, there are no cabins or resorts in the unit that would be directly or indirectly affected by prescribed fire treatments. There is one permitted outfitter-guide assigned site, it is located in Wilderness, which will not be treated.

There are no currently permitted utility sites in the Pelton Platte Accounting Unit, so there would not be any direct or indirect effects to these types of authorizations. The Snowy Range Highway, which is a popular destination for photography and filming permittees, is situated to the north of the Pelton Platte unit; the Forest Service has not recently received any photography or filming requests for areas within the Pelton Platte unit, so prescribed burn treatments would not have a direct or indirect effect to these types of permits. The Brush Creek/Hayden district does not receive many requests for recreational prospecting or minerals exploration; therefore, prescribed burns in this unit would not have a direct or indirect effect to these types of permits.

Direct and Indirect Effects of Mechanical Treatments

Mechanical treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation and minerals permits, but would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Pelton Platte Accounting Unit. Any associated road closures may be a temporary inconvenience to permitted recreationists. Clearing out dead and dying timber would be a direct and beneficial effect to both summer and winter recreationists such as backpackers and snowmobilers, as it reduces the risk of falling hazard trees both on and off trails. The removal of dead and dying trees would also minimize the risk of damage to permitted infrastructure.

Direct and Indirect of Hand Treatments

Hand treatments would likely have no direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, minerals and lands permits and potential permits, and would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Pelton Platte Accounting Unit. Any measurable negative effects would be negligible, and much less than those of prescribed burns due to the lack of smoke. Temporary closures associated with treatment may result in a low impact due to inaccessibility to some areas for a short period of time.

Noise from chainsaws may affect the quality of an outdoor experience for permit-holding commercial and non-commercial recreationists and commercial film crews. Overall, successful treatment is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, easements and/or leases.

Cumulative Effects of All Treatments Within Reasonable Foreseeable Future

Successful treatment, resulting in improved forest health and diversity overall, as well as a reduction in frequency and intensity of wildfires, is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, easements and/or leases in the Pelton Platte unit. This includes an increase in the number of people who want to engage in recreational prospecting, such as gold panning.

Fox Wood Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits, but would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Fox Wood Accounting Unit (Figure 14, Table 13). While permitted recreation opportunities in the Fox Wood unit may be temporarily suspended due to smoke cover and/or road closures during prescribed fire treatments, the success of these treatments may result in an increased number of requests for recreation permits for both dispersed and developed recreation localities. For example, this unit contains a relatively large amount of dispersed recreation areas, at a total of 138,409 acres. There are also five trailheads, 62 miles of trail, the Chimney Park Boy Scout Camp, four campgrounds, and the Fox Park Work Center; the removal of dead and dying timber from these areas would reduce the risk of injury by falling timber and would beautify the area and attract more forest visitors. Also, permitted outfitter-guides who backpack, hunt and fish in the area would likely experience an increased number of clients per activity season in the wake of improved wildlife habitat and an overall reduction in wildfire frequency and intensity. Fox Wood also has the second-largest number of permitted recreation residences at 26; successful treatment would be beneficial to these cabins by reducing fire hazards.

The direct and/or indirect effects of prescribed fire treatments to lands and minerals permits would be minimal and would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Fox Wood Accounting Unit. Permit holders for utility facilities are required to keep these facilities free and clear of vegetative debris; these efforts completed in good faith would work beneficially in tandem with prescribed fire treatments to improve overall conditions for authorized facilities. Fox Wood contains 28 miles of above-ground power line. There are no headgate/diversion structures, but there are three miles of earthen ditchline and two collective miles of pipeline. Each of these irrigation facilities are slated for potential prescribed fire treatment; these would benefit indirectly if the removal of dead and dying timber helps prevent encroachment of trees into the vicinity of these facilities where they did not historically exist. The Snowy Range Highway, which is a popular destination for photography and filming permittees, is situated to the north of the Fox Wood unit; the Forest Service has not recently received any photography or filming requests for this area, so prescribed burn treatments would not have a

direct or indirect effect to these types of permits. The streams in the vicinity of the Bobbie Thompson campground are popular among recreational prospectors, many of whom return annually to seek permits for activities such as gold panning. Prospectors operating in the Fox Wood unit may need to coordinate their permitted activities so that they do not experience temporary road closures and/or smoke cover.

Direct and Indirect Effects of Mechanical Treatments

Mechanical treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits and potential permits, but would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Fox Wood Accounting Unit. Any associated road closures may be a temporary inconvenience to permitted recreationists. The removal of dead and dying timber would be a direct and beneficial effect to both summer and winter recreationists such as backpackers and snowmobilers, as it reduces the risk of falling hazard trees both on and off trails. The removal of dead and dying trees would also minimize the risk damage to permitted infrastructure, such as water pipelines.

Direct and Indirect Effects of Hand Treatments

Hand treatments would likely have no direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, minerals and lands permits and potential permits, and would not significantly alter the permitted use patterns currently observed in the Fox Wood Accounting Unit. Any measurable negative effects would be negligible, and much less than those of prescribed burn treatments due to the lack of smoke cover. Temporary road closures during treatment may result in a low impact due to inaccessibility to some areas for a short period of time. Noise from chainsaws may affect the quality of an outdoor experience for permit-holding commercial and non-commercial recreationists and commercial film crews. Overall, successful treatment is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, easements and/or leases in the Fox Wood unit.

Cumulative Effects of All Treatments Within Reasonable Foreseeable Future

Successful treatment, resulting in improved forest health and diversity overall, as well as a reduction in frequency and intensity of wildfires, is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, easements and/or leases in the Fox Wood Accounting Unit. This includes an increase in the number of people who want to engage in recreational prospecting, such as gold panning.

Owen Sheep Accounting Unit

Direct and Indirect Effects of Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits, but would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Owen Sheep Accounting Unit (Figure 15, Table 14). While permitted dispersed and developed recreation opportunities in the Owen Sheep unit may be temporarily suspended due to smoke cover and/or road closures during prescribed fire treatments, the success of these treatments

may result in an increased number of requests for recreation permits for both dispersed and developed localities. For example, this unit contains a relatively large amount of dispersed recreation area at a total of 107,625 acres. There are also two trailheads, 13 miles of trail, and the Lake Owen Campground; the removal of dead and dying timber from these areas would reduce the risk of injury by falling timber and would beautify the area and attract more forest visitors, thereby potentially increasing the number of permit requests. Also, outfitter-guides who backpack, hunt and fish in the area would likely experience an increased number of clients per activity season in the wake of improved wildlife habitat and an overall reduction in wildfire frequency and intensity in the Owen Sheep unit.

The direct and/or indirect effects of prescribed fire treatments to lands and minerals permits would be minimal and would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Owen Sheep Accounting Unit. Permit holders for utility facilities are required to keep these facilities free and clear of vegetative debris; these efforts completed in good faith would work beneficially in tandem with prescribed fire treatment to improve overall conditions for permitted facilities. Owen Sheep contains two miles of above-ground electrical line, four headgate/diversion structures, six miles of earthen ditchline, six miles of pipeline, and five miles of below-ground water pipeline. Each of these irrigation facilities are slated for potential prescribed fire treatment; they would benefit indirectly if the removal of dead and dying timber helps prevent encroachment of trees into the vicinity of these facilities where they did not historically exist. The Snowy Range Highway, which is a popular destination for photography and filming permittees, is situated to the north of the Owen Sheep unit; the Forest Service has not recently received any photography or filming requests for this area, so prescribed burn treatments would not have a direct or indirect effect to these types of permits. The Brush Creek/Hayden district does not receive many requests for recreational prospecting or minerals exploration; therefore, prescribed burns in this unit would not have a direct or indirect to these types of permits.

Direct and Indirect Effects of Mechanical Treatments

Mechanical treatments may potentially have minimal direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, lands and minerals permits, but would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Owen Sheep Accounting Unit. Any associated road closures may be a temporary inconvenience to recreationists during treatment. Clearing out dead and dying timber would be a direct and beneficial effect to both summer and winter recreationists such as backpackers and snowmobilers, as it reduces the risk of falling hazard trees both on and off trails. The removal of dead and dying trees would also minimize the risk damage to permitted infrastructure in this unit, such as headgate/diversion structures.

Direct and Indirect Effects of Hand Treatments

Hand treatments would likely have no direct and/or indirect effects to recreation, minerals and lands permits and potential permits, and would not significantly alter the authorized use patterns currently observed in the Owen Sheep Accounting Unit. Any measurable negative effects would be negligible, and much less than those of prescribed burn treatments due to the lack of smoke cover. Temporary road closures during treatment may result in a low impact due to inaccessibility to some areas for a short period of time. Noise from chainsaws may affect the quality of an outdoor experience for permit-holding

commercial and non-commercial recreationists and commercial film crews. Overall, successful treatment is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits and/or leases in the Fox Wood unit.

Cumulative Effects of All Treatments Within Reasonable Foreseeable Future

Successful treatment, resulting in improved forest health and diversity overall, as well as a reduction in frequency and intensity of wildfires, is likely to gradually increase the number of people that hold permits, easements and/or leases in the Fox Wood Accounting Unit. This includes an increase in the number of people who want to engage in recreational prospecting, such as gold panning.

COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATORY DIRECTION

Describe whether and how the alternatives comply with state and federal regulatory direction. Include Forest Plan standards and guides if applicable. This can be done alternative by alternative or as one section comparing each alternative at the end of your report. Please work closely with your Forest counterpart when developing this section of the report.

REFERENCES

Be sure that everything you reference in the text has a corresponding full citation here and that you have an electronic copy for your files. If an electronic copy is not available, please scan the title page and pertinent pages of the document and place the file in the project record. Do this as soon you cite it in your text so you (or the team leader) aren't scrambling later to find the reference. **The citations below are placeholders only. They are not meant to be used as formatting guidelines. Use the style guide appropriate for your resource.**

DiTomaso, Joseph M. 2000. Invasive weeds in rangelands: species, impacts, and management. *Weed Science*. 48(2):255-265.

USDA Forest Service. 2004. Idaho Panhandle National Forests Forest Plan Monitoring Report. Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. 125 pp.

APPENDIX